

PREVIEWS: 1:35 HUMBER SCOUT CAR ■ 1:48 WIRBELWIND ■ AND MORE...

July 2007 / £3.50 / Issue 15



Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

**ON A
CRUSADE**

The Editor builds
Tamiya's new 1:48
Crusader Mk.I/II

www.modelmilitary.com

**LENINGRAD
DEFENDER**

Tamiya's 1:48 KV-1 modelled
by Luciano Rodriguez

**RECON
IN RUSSIA**

Kev Smith puts Italeri's 1:35
Sahariana into an unusual setting

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8

20

28

34


REGULARS

p 4 NEWS

Events, clubs and shows, plus industry announcements

p 48 LETTERS

The place to air your comments, suggestions and thoughts

p 51 FIGURES

A round-up of the latest figures on release

p 58 INCOMING

New kits, products and accessories get our initial thoughts

p 66 LAST POST

A new look to this page, with an instant guide to applying rust!

FEATURES

p 6 PREVIEW

Dragon Models 'Premium Edition' Soviet SU-100

p 8 ON A CRUSADE

The Editor returns to modeling with Tamiya's quarter scale Crusader in the desert

p 16 PANZER POUNDER

Marcus Nicholls offers some excellent reference photos on this devastating British anti-tank gun

p 20 RECON IN RUSSIA

Kev Smith reviews Italeri's Sahariana reconnaissance car

p 26 PREVIEW

SKP Models injection moulded Humber Scout Car

p 28 JOURNEY'S END

Matt Edwards replicates an Ardennes scene that caught his eye

p 34 PANTHER TRACKS

Sam Dwyer builds Dragon's Smart Kit Final Panther G

p 40 FOREST MANAGEMENT...

The Editor gets stuck into another of these superbly simple kits

p 44 PREVIEW

Tamiya's new 1:48 Wirbelwind gets checked out by Luke Pitt

p 50 PREVIEW

Our second Tamiya 1:48 preview, the Panzer III N

p 52 LENINGRAD DEFENDER

Luciano Rodriguez finishes Tamiya's 1:48 KV-1 in a funky camo scheme



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Tel: (UK) 01525 222573

Fax: (UK) 01525 222574

Email: enquiries@modelmilitary.com

Address: ADH Publishing,

Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane,
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Diary Dates...

July 8th

The Washington Tyne and Wear Model Club will be holding their first show at the Nissan Sports and Social Club, Washington Road, Sunderland. Contact:

Joe-e-long@tiscali.co.uk

July 18-22nd

War & Peace Show, Beltring, Kent. www.thewarandpeaceshow.uk.com

August 18th

'PRESENT ARMS' 2007
MAFVA Essex Branch is staging 'Present Arms' 2007 at The Sports Hall of Marshalls Park School, Pettits Lane, Romford, Essex, RM1-4EH, UK. Military modelling, Wargaming, Figures and appearances by actual military vehicles (weather permitting). Admission: Adults £2.50, Concessions £1.50. Doors open from 10am-5pm. Contact: Bob Sinfield: mafva_essex@yahoo.co.uk www.mafvaessex.co.uk

September 9th

Aero Space & Vehicle club Wombourne Scale Model Show and Competition will also feature junior make and take. 10am to 4pm at the community centre Wombourne just off A449 For more info please send an S.A.E to: Mr G. Taylor 11 Holberg grove Wolverhampton WV11 3LE

September 15th

IPMS London Ontario presents the London Scale Model Show 2007 at the Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre, 650 Elizabeth Street, London, Ontario, Canada. The theme for this year is 'the '70s show' and will feature over 60 categories, plus special awards and the '70s theme awards. General viewing and vendor sales from 10am until 4pm. Visit <http://londonscalemodelshow.ca> for complete information Contact: Paul Bird paulbird_7@sympatico.ca, or Scott Taylor scot4944@rogers.com for more details.

'ALLO 'ALLO IT'S TAMIYA'S LATEST...

New from Tamiya is this little 1:35 Renault UE Armoured Carrier, which will be perfect company for Tamiya's excellent Char B1 bis. At first glance, this may seem a very unusual choice of subject, when there are still so many main stream subjects not yet produced in styrene. But for a long time French vehicles have been few and far between. Although not as glamorous as their larger cousins will still be a welcome addition to the Tamiya range. More news as we get it. www.tamiya.com



MORE LEOPARDS ON TOUR

Having featured Canadian Leopard C2s being deployed to Afghanistan, it is now the turn of the Danish who will be sending these impressive vehicles to support ISAF in Afghanistan. Featuring desert camouflage and extra armour for the commander's cupola, they will make a great modelling project. Check out www.howitz.dk for more great reference photos.



ACCURATE ARMOUR

AA have been busy of late with some very interesting new subjects and these include an SAS 110 Land Rover (Pinky), the purposeful if not downright ugly looking Humber 'Box' and lastly some correctly detailed modern British pattern Jerrycans.

For more info and prices check-out; www.accurate-armour.com
SAS Land Rover 110 DPV (LR009) and 3-man crew set (FS011)
Humber 'Box' 4x4 Heavy Utility (K083)
UK Produced MoD Jerry Cans (A113)

MPM PRODUCTIONS COMPETITION WINNER

We are please to announce the winner of the MPM competition from Issue 13
What does the abbreviation HEMTT stand for? = Heavy Expanded Tactical Truck
The winner is Daniel Alderton from West Rainton, Durham UK.



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PREMIUM DESTROYER

Having just built two of Tamiya's SU-85s, Glenn Bowen is the perfect person to check out Dragon's latest SU armed with the 100mm gun

Here's one of Dragons latest Premium Edition kits, the SU-100 tank destroyer.

Now this was an outstanding kit first time around, but Dragon have thought it would be a good thing and take it that little bit further and make it even better. As usual they have seen fit to give us a box that is bursting at the seams, which is very good news for us modellers as it means we have a lot more things to get our teeth into. There are fourteen spues altogether with eight of these being duplicated twice. This also means some bits are left over for the spares box. Dragon have also provided in the kit two photo-etch

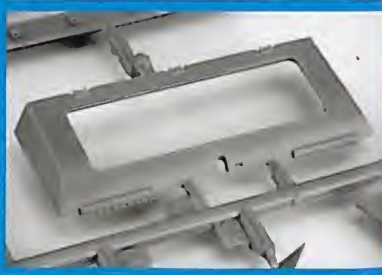
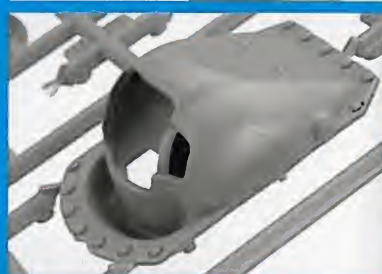
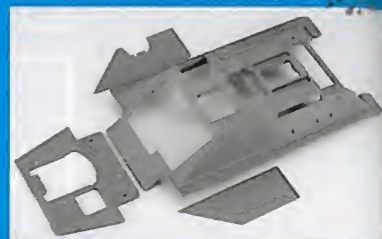
sheets plus a turned aluminium gun barrel. The kit also comes with magic tracks and a length of metal cable. The whole thing is moulded in the usual standard light grey plastic that we've all become familiar with Dragon kits. All the mouldings are flawless, from the weld seams right down to the plastic front track guards which come with preformed battle damage. This has also been reproduced on the external fuel tanks. The heavy casting around the gun mount is exquisite and looks perfect. Also included are two clear periscopes and a front headlight.

As with all Premium Edition kits, the modeller has the choice

to either go all plastic or be a bit more adventurous and swap things for etched brass, and believe me there's a lot of it. With such things as grab handles, wing nuts, side storage boxes and engine grilles to name but a few of the items that can be changed.

On the instruction sheet there are five decal options to choose from - two from Hungary 1945, two unknown units again from 1945 and one from an unknown unit that saw action in Czechoslovakia in 1954.

If you are into building Soviet armour then this one's for you, and in my opinion it is highly recommended. ■



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PLU4038 1:48 Barbed Wire Modern



PLU285 1:35 Withered Leaves Set
PLU286 1:35 Green Leaves Set (no pic)
(both the above sets contain oak, maple, linden, cherry and birch leaves)



PLU241 1:35 Jeep See Bee
PLU266 1:35 Gramophones and Radios (no pic)

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ON A CRUS

The Editor builds Tamiya's new Crusader, and having now built three in this scale, is he getting the 1:48 bug?



SADE



Apart from a tube of instant adhesive for attaching the plastic roadwheels to the metal lower hull, these are all the tools needed to build the Crusader; a couple of sanding sticks, a file, a piece of Scotch Brite, tweezers and a good quality pair of side cutters and craft knife.



As a tip for anyone new to the hobby, when using sidecutters make sure the flush side of the cutters is nearest the kit part. This way the cut will be nice and neat with very little sanding required to remove any excess sprue gate. The photo to the right is the wrong way to cut.



The turret halves are attached to the sprue in a slightly different way to the other parts. Once the component has been removed, a small tab is left on the mating surfaces, and again the side cutters are used here, followed by some careful sanding with a fine grade sanding stick.





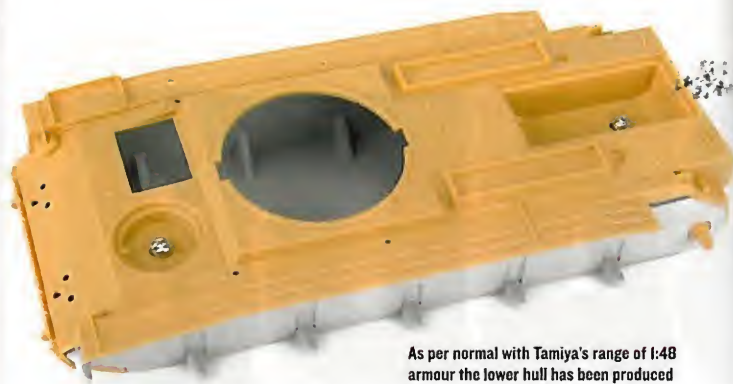
With the sprue attachment points cleaned off, the turret halves are ready to be joined, in this case using Humbrol Liquid Poly. Note that the brush supplied under the cap is not being used (and is probably best discarded) instead a fine tipped paint brush is used, allowing for a more precise application.



The main road wheel halves have been glued together before gently rubbing them over a sanding stick to remove the mould seams which run around the circumference of each tyre. This also cleans off any remaining sprue attachment points.



During assembly, the instructions highlight the need to drill out some holes from the underside of the fenders to help locate the stowage bins and fire extinguishers. This is best tackled using an appropriate size drill bit in a pin vice.



As per normal with Tamiya's range of 1:48 armour the lower hull has been produced in white metal. Note the screws used to help fix the upper hull in place.

As with the SU122 and the M26 Pershing I have built in this scale I chose to keep it simple and build it out of the box. As usual, construction starts with the lower hull and running gear, starting with the wheels. Tamiya have opted to only include Poly caps for the drive sprockets, but I really wish these caps could have been incorporated into the main road wheels, as the fit onto the axles is quite loose.

The next step is to add the plastic front and rear plates to the cast metal lower hull and for this, super glue will need to be used as normal styrene cement will not work at all.

Before the upper and lower hull halves can be joined, several holes must be drilled out on the underside of the fenders, and also two small slots need to be cut into the rear of the upper hull before the engine louvre part can be attached.

TURRET

The turret is very nicely detailed and fits together perfectly. Tamiya include optional mantlets for the MkI and MkII, and both the 2 pounder main gun and coaxial Besa are well rendered as is the rivet detail used in the turret's construction. One odd omission was that no mention is made in the instructions of the locating slot which sits on the lefthand side of the turret stowage bin. I opted to leave it as is to highlight this point, Tamiya do however include an aerial mount on one of the sprues but again the part isn't mentioned at all. I know I'm being a little pedantic here, but younger or new to the hobby modellers maybe left puzzled as to what is supposed to fit in this slot. One of the most noticeable features of the Crusader turret is the large roof hatch, but with no interior detailing, either needs to be left in the closed position (unlikely for the desert) or putting some crew figures in the opening, or how about scratch building a turret interior if you can find the reference? ▶



As can be seen in these two photos there were a couple of minor fit issues. The first, where the upper and lower hull halves meet above from road wheels isn't such a problem if the sandshields are being fitted. The second however between the engine grille and rear fender will require careful filling.



This shot shows the unidentified slot to the left of the turret rear stowage bin. No mention of this is made in the instructions. This can be filled with a small amount of suitable filler such as Milliput.

PAINTING

Following a coat of Holt's grey primer, the Crusader received a coat of Vallejo Track primer colour. This colour would act as the shadow for the pre-shading technique I chose to use for painting the Crusader. The next step was to start adding Vallejo Beige into the centre of all panels etc. this can be seen to good effect in the accompanying photos.

The easiest way I have found to replicate a scale sprayed edged effect, I use UHU white-Tac, this is rolled into thin sausage shapes these sausages are then laid along the demarcation line and depending how much they are pressed onto the model determines how sharp the sprayed edge will be.

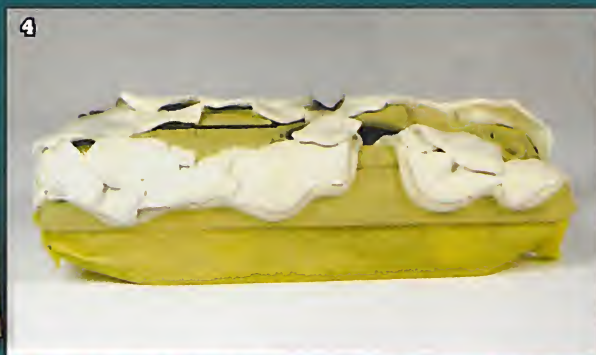


2. The next step is to start applying Vallejo Model Color Beige. The initial coat is applied very thinly, the paint to water ratio being about 70/30, using an Iwata HP-C Plus airbrush. As can be seen in this view, this process is best completed in several stages ensuring that the base track primer is not obliterated completely.

3. After several light applications of the beige, the model should hopefully only display a hint of the base primer showing through.



1. Following a layer of Holt's automotive acrylic grey primer, the model was given a base coat of Vallejo 'Panzer Aces Tracks Primer.' This colour will act as the 'shadow' for the following colours.



4. To achieve the semi-hard edged disruptive black scheme, the author used White Tack produced by UHU. This technique has been in use with aircraft modellers for quite some time. From personal experience do not use the blue versions of this type of product, as for some reason they versions leave an oily residue on the areas it comes in contact with. For UK readers the UHU products are available from Staples superstores.



5. Something to bear in mind when using this method is that the thinner the diameter of the 'sausages' used to demarcate the pattern, the sharper the sprayed edge will be. For the black, Vallejo Model Air Black/Grey was used, as pure black can look too toy like.



6. With the White Tack removed, we can see how neat and effective this technique is. The longest part of the process is actually rolling out and placing the White Tack onto the model. The actual spraying takes no time at all.

7. With the basic painting complete, the model is now ready to receive a couple of light coats of Johnson's Klear prior to decal application.



The Crusader has been placed on small MDF base supplied by Just Bases. The groundwork features were kept to a minimum, as even on this simple setting the author wanted to suggest the vast barren expanse of the North African deserts. The two crew figures came from the excellent Dartmoor Models range (see page 64 for contact details)



Although this chipped paint looks a little scruffy in this extreme close-up it illustrates well the way the effect is achieved. First, a lightened version of the base colour is painted on to all the required areas, and this is then followed by filling the centres of the scratches and chips with a black/brown colour.



To simulate wear around the turret side vision port, Vallejo Model Color Black was brush painted on with the aid of a 000 artist's brush. Oil paints were used to simulate the subtle rust streaks from the lifting lugs. For a full explanation of this technique check out our new look 'Last Post' page.

"both the 2 pounder main gun and coaxial Besa are well rendered"

GROUNDWORK

I wanted to keep the base simple, so I chose to use a small square MDF base from Just Bases. The first thing to do was to rub down the edges before giving them several coats of Holts Satin Black automotive acrylic aerosol paint, and once this was fully dry the edges were then masked off using insulation tape before scoring the top of the base with a Stanley knife to act as a key for the filler. To start the groundwork, a thin coat of interior filler was applied using a one inch wide paintbrush, and once the base had received an even coat the brush was wetted with water and used to smooth out any brush marks. The filler was then left to dry-out for a while before thinned PVA glue was brushed on,

followed by a liberal coating of chinchilla dust (available from pet shops). Because the thinned PVA re-softens the filler, small, smooth pebbles were pushed into the filler/dust mix, and the base was then set aside overnight to dry fully.

With the groundwork now dry, various shades of Vallejo acrylics were mixed until I had found a shade I was happy with. This mix was then airbrushed over the groundwork after which the stones were picked out in a light grey to help break up the monotone colour of the sand. And there we are, an enjoyable build and a fun little project that has been a great way to get myself back into finishing something for the mag having been unable to get much done over the last few months. ■



While the groundwork was still setting, the Crusader was pushed into the plaster. The timing is important here, if the plaster is too wet, it will ooze up into the tracks, making for a real mess. If all goes well the effect should replicate crusty sun baked sand over which the weight of the tank has crunched.



Mig Production's Pigments mixed with enamel thinners to form a slurry was liberally 'washed' over the hull and left to dry, any excess was wiped off with a clean brush to leave this dusty and scruffy look



To help impart a weather beaten look to the mantlet, random patches of various dark greys were applied by dabbing the paint on with a small piece of Scotch Brite. By varying the tones helps to simulate both old and new paint damage.



To save time, only the run of track that would remain visible once the sand shields were in place was assembled. Thanks to the drive sprockets having poly caps, the tracks could be assembled like this and removed prior to painting.



Mig Production's Beach Sand was mixed with enamel thinners to form a very thin paste, which was then applied to the wheels. Once dry the excess can be brushed off, a wide flat artist's brush.



The finished model built straight from the box.



Modelspec

TAMIYA 1:48 CRUSADER MK I/II KIT NO.32541

Materials

Figures - Dartmoor Military Models 1:48 British Tankers (48M009)
Base - Just Bases

Paints used

Vallejo Modelcolor and Model Air - 801 Brass, 304
Track primer, 917 Beige, 862 Black Grey, Red 947
Mig Production's pigments - Beach Sand P030, Black
Smoke P023, Light Rust P024
Filters - P246 Grey for Bright Green

- ✓ Great subject, parts fit, typical Tamiya quality.
- ✗ Metal lower hull, loose fitting wheels, missing part on turret. Poor decal options.

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References - Towed 17 Pounder anti-tank gun



Whilst on his travels, TMMI's Editor Marcus Nicholls found this classic WWII British 17 pounder anti-tank gun.

PANZER POUNDER

Nestling within the bocage-like fields and lanes of North Devon, England, The Cobbaton Combat Collection is a treasure trove of tanks, trucks and other military hardware, crammed into a series of atmospherically dusty Nissen huts and outbuildings. If you own a vehicle bigger than a Smart Car, your wing mirrors will scraping the hedges as you drive down the approach road, but it's worth taking a diversion from your main route to see the collection, as they have some remarkable items that are of direct interest to the modeller. On a recent visit, an outdoor event was in progress and some of the museum's more moveable exhibits had been placed on display in the back field. The one that caught my eye was their 17 Pdr anti-tank gun, which is in

remarkably good condition. It's a historically significant weapon as it was the most powerful anti-tank gun available to the British in the mid-late war period, and was used in various theatres of operation. The gun appeared most famously in the Sherman Firefly, as well as the Achilles tank destroyer, (the British version of the M10), Comet and also in the Centurion after the War. In this photo-essay, we see some of the most interesting aspects of the gun, from the distinctive globular muzzle brake to the characteristic sloping shields - hopefully the pics will help you in your modelling projects. ■

Cobbaton Combat Collection,
Chittlehampton, Umberleigh,
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▲ Close-up of the gunner's traverse and elevation wheels. On vehicle mounted 17 pounder guns, the lower wheel is fitted with an electrical firing button in the centre of the handle.



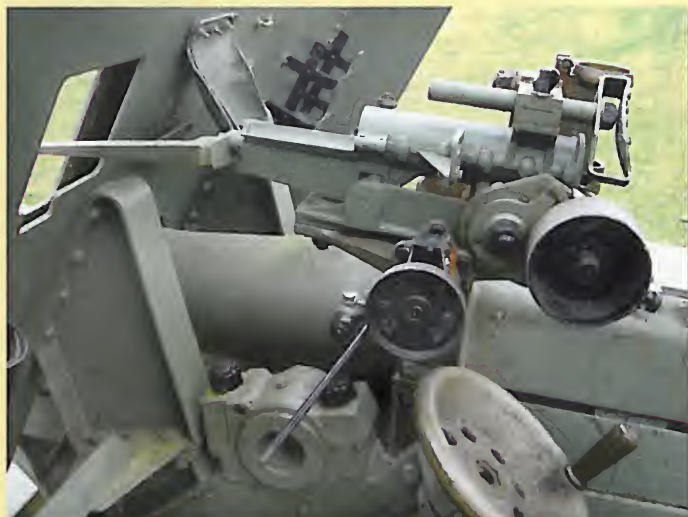
▲ A clear view of the gun shield showing the various metal fittings, braces and rivet detail. The shield not only protected the crew from small arms fire, but also limited the effect of the muzzle blast.



▲ Gunner's sight unit mountings - unfortunately the actual sights are missing.



▲ The end cap of the recuperator can be observed here, complete with a multitude of small fittings and adjusters. Of note is the texture on the cap's shoulder - either a welded seam or a cast steel item.



▲ The gun sight mount is seen here, with bronze gun control wheel at the bottom of the shot. The smaller black painted wheels are for adjusting the gun sight.



▲ These components make up the mechanical linkage from the gunner's trigger to the firing pin at the rear of the breach. The silver coloured locking cable is not standard WW2 equipment!



▲ The thick gauge of steel used on the trail leg uprights of clear to see here. In use, these areas would quickly become chipped and scraped, with an accumulation of dust and mud.



References - Towed 17 Pounder anti-tank gun



▲ Close-up of the muzzle brake locking ring. In this and the view to the right, the thickness of the metal from which the muzzle brake is made is noteworthy.



▲ The distinctive muzzle brake of the 17 pounder is sometimes incorrectly shaped in aftermarket gun barrels for models.



▲ The 17 pounder shield features spaced armour and a drop-down lower shield as used on the German Pak 40 75mm anti-tank gun.



▲ The barrel 'strap' is a hefty item and is fixed securely to the cradle with a large bolt. Note the two small adjusters immediately behind the strap.



▲ Detail shot of one of the hand brake mechanism. The spring and nut assembly in the foreground is the brake adjuster used to take up any slack as the brake shoes wear down with use.



▲ Wheel details. Note that four of the retaining nuts are missing from this wheel. The loop below the central nut is used to tie-down the gun when being transported by rail or sea etc.



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1:35



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RECON IN RUSSIA

Kev Smith builds the much-anticipated Sahariana from Italeri and places it a long way from the deserts of North Africa...





Tech Tip! - Vallejo Still Water (S26230)

One of the hardest tricks in modelling is to reproduce water. Well, Vallejo have produced it in a bottle! Vallejo Still Water is water-based and can be poured directly from the bottle onto the diorama, or can be mixed with any acrylic paints, or any of the pigments on the market today to make very convincing puddles. The product is self-levelling and dries to a hard, non-sticky, crystal clear finish in around 24 hours. When poured onto a non-porous surface, Still Water can be peeled off once dry and can be cut into any shape, ideal for waterfalls!

After the LRDG raided Kufra in 1941, the Italians formed a unit from desert veterans to hunt down the British raiders. Specialist vehicles to meet this task were requested which needed to meet a number of requirements. They needed to be fast, well armed and able to operate in harsh conditions. A division of the FIAT motor group produced the AS42 Sahariana (desert jeep), which was based on the proven chassis and mechanics of the AB41 armoured car. The first vehicles were delivered in late 1942 and were in action by the end of November. These were in units of 100 men and 24 Saharianas divided into 3 platoons. The units served in North Africa, Tunisia, Sicily and finally Italy in the defence of Rome, and a unit even fought in Russia.

After the armistice, a unit of the X Arditi (an Italian airborne unit) stationed near Rome stayed loyal to the Italian dictator Mussolini and carried on the fight against the Allies. The unit was about company strength and had around 9 Sahariana AS42s that were employed in the defence of the Italian capital with the 2nd Fallschirmjager Division (Ramke). The unit was issued with German equipment but allowed to continue to wear Italian patches and rank markings on the jump smocks and was used mainly as a recce unit. In the retreat from Hungary, the unit lost all of the AS42s; the survivors from Russia fought at Arnhem and ended the war in the defence of Brest where they were captured by the Americans.

None of these vehicles exist today but some did remain in service with the Italian police well into the 1950s.

THE KIT

Whilst I was browsing traders' stands at a show I attended, I could not help but notice the new kit from Italeri in its blue and yellow box with the company logo, which certainly grabs your attention; the artwork on the box top is also impressive.

The carton is unconventional and opens like a chocolate box. Inside, the sprues are packed in polythene bags in the normal way with the resin and etch items in blister packs to provide additional protection for these delicate parts. The decals and clear plastic sheet for the windscreen are also packed in polythene bags, as are the tyres. The instruction booklet, that also doubles up as reference material, is another plus point and comes on good quality paper with clear, neat construction details. Italeri have even done your homework for

you and provided reference photos of the vehicle including official pictures in black and white as well as colour advice for the resin parts and guidance for working with photo etch. Finally, they provide colour shots of the finished model.

The sprues are produced in sand coloured plastic more familiar from Tamiya, all of which are cleanly moulded and contain some superb detailing. The jerry cans stowed along the sides come moulded in blocks with separate handles and, the rear deck can be cut into three sections to allow you to see the resin engine if you decide to fit it.

Other goodies include resin figures with the usual separate heads and arms; the quality is okay but to be honest, nothing special when compared to other current manufacturers' products. A fret of photo-etch is included but a little on the thick side, however, it does provide the modeller with jerrycan racks, sand channels and other small fittings. Finally, the decals - these come on a small sheet, which contains the instrument panel, number plates and an Italian flag for air recognition.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction begins with the lower chassis that was built as per the instructions but, although straightforward, care should be taken in fitting the suspension to ensure that all parts are properly aligned. Stage 5 sees the installation of the engine bay. Italeri gives the modeller the option to have the engine covers open thereby exposing the mechanics. The deck is moulded in one piece and care will be needed to cut it into the three separate parts required if the open option is selected. If you choose to model the vehicle without the engine block, I recommend that the radiator be fitted, as without it, a gaping space can be seen through the rear grille.

Could Italeri have made the engine parts out of plastic? To be honest there isn't a benefit in these parts being resin; the same detail could have been achieved in plastic particularly as the radiator grille is totally hidden even when the engine covers are open.

Stages 6-8 deal with the construction of the fighting compartment and the first task I faced here concerned the tie down points; these are moulded around the sides of the hull, the fire wall and on all four wheel arches, all of which were removed with a sharp blade. I used a hand drill to make holes for the new tie down points. To help with the task of making them, I glued a length of plastic squared off rod to a piece



This overall view shows how realistic the muddy track full of puddles has turned out with the help of Vallejo's Still Water.



of plastic card then drilled holes on each side of the rod, it was a case then of threading the copper wire through the holes then forming the tie down over the rod with a pair of tweezers. Making a jig has two advantages; one being it makes a mundane job easier and the other that it ensures that the tie downs are of a similar size. The resulting tie downs were then super glued in place. The holes were filled with home-made filler which was a mixture of Liquid Poly glue and off cuts of sprue mixed together in a jar and left overnight, the result being liquid plastic. I use a paintbrush to apply the mixture

and clean it with Liquid Poly.

The driver's area was the next to be built. All the parts fitted well but mould seams are evident on the small pedals and levers, so care must be taken when cleaning these. I don't always follow the sequence described in the instructions but fit parts in an order that suits me and this is one of those occasions; I jumped forward to stage 17 and fitted the driver's instrument panel. The modeller has two choices when it come to this stage, the kit part has dials and switches moulded onto the dash or, alternatively, there is an option of a complete dashboard

on the decal sheet. I decided to combine both and cut out the two round dials from the decal and place them onto the raised detail dash once this was painted.

SAHARIANA II

In 1943 the Sahariana II was adopted. This involved removing two racks of ten jerrycans and replacing them with two large side bins which greatly improved the stowage on the vehicle, larger bins were also added to the tops of the rear wheel arches. The sand-channels carried on both sides were also discarded. A total of Six Sahariana IIs went to Russia with the 2nd Fallschirmjager Division, all crewed by Italians.

THIS I COULDN'T RESIST!

I started with the two large bins mounted along the sides of the vehicle; these were scratch built from plastic card. I confess that all the measurements are approximate as the only reference I had was a photo in the reference booklet provided in the kit, but I reasoned that if there was room for the lower jerrycans and the bins didn't stick out too far then it wouldn't be that far off! These were then mounted on the hull sides before they were fitted to the floor of the vehicle. I decided to replace the lower jerry can racks, which are moulded in blocks of five, with individual jerry cans from Italeri; a new lower frame was fabricated from thin metal sheet as the original is incorporated in the one-piece mould. I took this opportunity to inflict the inevitable damage that would be caused due to the low ground clearance of the vehicle. The photo-etch bar was fitted last which locks the jerry

cans into the racks. To finish off the crew area, a tarpaulin was fabricated from thin material soaked in PVA and water; the securing straps were made from lead sheet and finished off with buckles fabricated from thin wire.

FENDERS

The water jerry can frames that are fitted to the front fenders are provided as photo-etch parts and are easily bent into shape; four nicely detailed individual Italian jerry cans, which are provided in the kit fit into these frames. Electrical cabling that runs to the horn, which is located on the frame, was added at this stage. For this task I used lead string used by anglers and found in fishing shops; this useful item can be employed in a number of areas of our hobby.

I removed the moulded crew steps on the sides of all four fenders, which are also provided as photo-etch parts. To finish off, some dents were inflicted on the tops of arches using an electric hand drill fitted with a dental burr.

MAIN ARMAMENT

The detail of the 20mm Anti Aircraft gun is generally very good although the smaller parts do suffer from a little flash and care is needed in cleaning off these finely moulded items. It is a shame that Italeri didn't include a photo-etch gun sight in the kit, I got mine from the spares box and it does finish off the weapon perfectly. Once made, the 20mm was left to one side for painting. It's worth mentioning that the fit of the weapon onto the mount is very loose and it needs to be attached with a small blob of Blue/White Tac or left off during painting.

This figure comes from 'The Commanders Conference (Kharkov 1943)' set from Dragon, with a new head from the Warriors range. The base colours were applied using acrylic paints, followed by highlights and shadows from oils.



STOWAGE

To give the Sahariana the look of a recce vehicle, plenty of stowage would be required; the most obvious area where the crew would pile additional gear is the rear deck. I started with a Panzerfaust crate from the new Gen 2 figure sets from Dragon and further items from the spares box were used to bulk out the stowage under the tarpaulin. Bandage soaked in PVA and water solution was used to replicate the netting. To help make the painting process easier, the cam netting draped around the sides was left off until after the camouflage pattern was applied to the vehicle. To keep the continuity of the painting, I normally paint my vehicles with the stowage in place but this isn't always practical and some of the smaller items were added well into the painting stages. Digging tools, bread bag and anti-tank mines are a good example of this.

Recce is all about not being seen and blending into the natural surroundings, so what better to assist than foliage and photos often show vehicles festooned with natural camouflage. Thin wire was attached and strung from tie down points around the vehicle before I started painting.

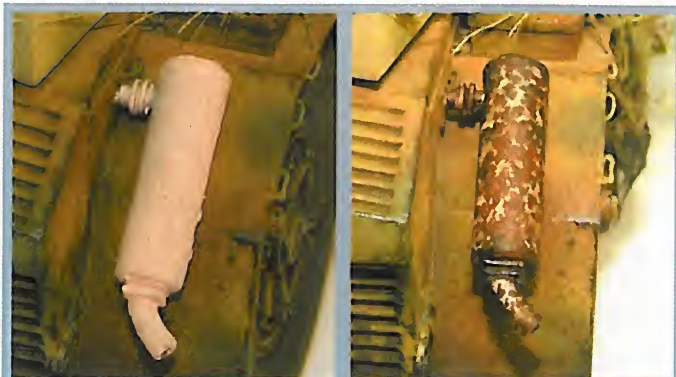
PAINTING

To start off, the whole vehicle was given a coat of Halfords grey primer ready to receive a base coat of dark yellow. A mix of Tamiya Dark Yellow (XF-60) lightened with a couple of drops of Tamiya Buff (XF-57) was sprayed over the vehicle and crew compartment areas.

FIGHTING COMPARTMENT

I started the weathering process in the fighting compartment. From the start, I had planned to have the floor area heavily weathered. The floor plates would have had constant wear from the crew's movements around the compartment, but the areas of the floor around the sides of the compartment would have less wear, and so, were masked off with masking fluid from Winsor & Newton as were the areas under the weapon mount. Using the mount as a guide as to where the natural walkway would be, Tamiya German Grey (XF-63) was sprayed onto the floor plates and on the two front wheel arches that would also suffer from the crew's movements. Once dry, the masking fluid was removed using a toothpick and a pair of tweezers; I gave the grey areas a filter/wash coat of Paynes Grey oil paint that has the effect of darkening the grey, which at this stage was far too light. Leaving this area to dry, work was started on the inner sides; local washes of raw umber oil paints were applied to these panels.

Using my usual mix of Paynes Grey and Raw Umber oils, small chips and scratches were added to the framework and the chair backs. I vary the percentage of each colour to the mix so that not all the scratches look the same depth; I generally use two methods, one using a fine paintbrush and the other Scotch Brite. For the latter, I simply rip a piece off the pad then dip the segment into the paint mix using tweezers, dab off the excess onto a cloth then apply to the area of the model that is



The author first gave the silencer a coat of Vallejo Rose Salmon (835). This was followed by applying random patches of Vandyke Brown oil paint. Once the oil paint had dried fully, various browns were colour washed over the entire exhaust. Lastly, Mig Production's Light Rust pigment was dusted on to create this very convincing finish.

being weathered; the result being a mass of random scratches. To add a touch of colour and interest to this area, a pin up was added to one of the chair backs. This is a cut down poster from a set intended for train layouts. The deeper paint chips were highlighted with Naples Yellow oil paint on the undersides of the scratches.

Returning to the floor, now that the filter/wash of Paynes Grey had dried, Mig Gun Metal pigment (P231) was used to burnish the floor plates. I used an old brush and worked the pigment into the dark grey areas ending up with a polished steel effect and finished off using a soft pencil to highlight the edges of the plates. Finally, a mix of Mig pigments, Russian Earth (PO34) and European Dust (PO28) and a little static grass with a touch of PVA glue, was made. This mix was worked into the corners and down the sides of the compartment where a natural build-up of dirt would collect. It

has to be said that care must be taken when using (PO34) as there is an annoying tendency for the red pigment that hasn't been mixed properly in the pot to appear just when and where you don't want it to. After learning the hard way, I decanted small amounts into a small pot and gave it a good stir!

CLUTTER

To add interest to the fighting compartment, resin 20mm shell cases from Royal Models, an empty cigarette box, and empty cases cut from copper wire were scattered around the compartment. Small details like these are necessary if you wish to breathe life into any model. Finally, a very thin wash of Vandyke Brown was run around the edges of the floor, when this dried, it left a tidemark and gave the impression of drying mud.

EXTERIOR

Italian vehicles were camouflaged with a three-tone pattern similar

A combination of Woodland Scenic's products and sea foam was used to help camouflage the Sahariana.





The neat frames for the jerry cans on the front fenders are supplied as etched brass parts in the kit.



Short lengths of copper wire have been used to represent the empty cases from the MG-34. Mission Models turned 20mm turned brass cases would be the perfect accompaniment for the flak gun



The author took the idea for hanging the anti-tank mines from the rear towing hooks from a photo of a Sd.Kfz 250 in the book, Sd.Kfz Alt-Neu archive part 2 by Martin Kogel.



Vallejo Still Water was mixed with Mig Productions' Pigments to replicate the muddy water that has collected in the spare wheel housing.

to their German allies, but applied in patches rather than the German pattern that we are familiar with.

Using my Iwata airbrush, I started with the green. For this I chose Tamiya NATO Green (XF-67) and sprayed the patches following a pattern that had been lightly drawn on to the vehicle. Next, Tamiya Red Brown (XF-64) and a couple of drops of Tamiya Flat Red (XF-7) were mixed and applied in the same way. With the camouflage pattern now on, I added the rest of the netting. Care was taken to blend the edges of the netting together to look like a single piece. Thin elastic, normally used for sewing, was used to tie the netting to the tie down points around the vehicle.

WEATHERING

To tone down the brightness of the colours, the model exterior received a very light overspray of the sand base colour. To finish, the model was given a wash of burnt Sienna and burnt umber oil paints. Once the wash was dry, I began the chipping, which followed the same process as the interior that has already been described above. Finally, Mig Russian Earth and European Earth were used individually and mixed together to add layers of dust to the model.

This was painted with Vallejo Rose Salmon (835) acrylic paint, and then patches of Vandyke Brown oil paint were randomly applied all over the exhaust body which was then left to dry. Washes of various browns were then applied and to finish off, Mig Light Rust (PO23) was dusted on to the exhaust.

FINISHING TOUCHES

The radio comes from Dragon (6053), and has had cables added, which were fabricated from copper wire. The radio was painted sand and the mottled camouflage pattern was achieved by spraying Tamiya Red Brown (XF-64) through Scotch Brite. The webbing straps were cut from lead sheet and attached with super glue. The cooker is from Dragon (6063). Finally, the foliage is a mixture of Woodlands Scenic's products and sea foam. Other accessories came from the G2 figure range from Dragon and the spares box.

FIGURES

The dejected radio operator is from the Tank range (T-35003), and has had a resin head from the Warriors range added. The standing figure is from Dragon (6144) and also had a new head from Warriors added. Both were painted in acrylics and oils and finished off with pigments around the bottoms of the trousers.

BASE

I hoped that by having the vehicle in a cold and wet Eastern Front setting, which is totally opposite to what you would imagine for a Sahariana, it adds an interest to the small diorama.

The base started life as a picture frame, which was perfect, as I wanted to get some depth to the groundwork. I used the reverse side, which gave me enough depth to take the ground level up to the lip of the frame. I started by making a stiff mix of interior filler, fine sand and PVA began to build up the ground; whilst this was still wet I took an old paint brush and made the tyre tracks and the puddles. The base was then left to dry thoroughly. Once dry, the tyre tracks and puddles were sealed with a couple of light coats of PVA because the water product I was going to use is water based I didn't want it to soak away!

The next stage was to tackle the churned up mud. After experimenting with a couple of ideas, I settled on a mix of Mig Acrylic Resin, Russian Earth (PO34) and static grass which was mixed in a small pot and applied using an old paint brush. I used a toothpick to add relief to the ground. This was repeated a number of times gradually adding layers. Left to dry overnight, the ground then received a wash of Vandyke Brown and satin varnish.

PUDDLES

I used Still Water from Vallejo (26230), which is simple and easy to use. I added Russian Earth to a small pot of Still Water and gave it a good stir. I then used a syringe and carefully decanted the water mix into the puddles these were then left to dry for a couple of hours then the process was repeated until a convincing puddle was formed.

The Sahariana was then attached to the base and the water in the tyre tracks was finished in the same way. The wheels and the lower areas of the vehicle were given a coat of the mud mix to marry the Sahariana to the diorama base.

CONCLUSION

I confess to knowing little about Italian hardware but this vehicle has a distinctiveness that makes it a great subject. The AS42 is an enjoyable build from the box and a challenging weathering project.

To finish off, the booklet provides good advice on modelling but no mention of how to handle resin so if you are using resin for the first time, basically where possible, avoid sanding, use a saw where appropriate, always wear a mask and use a good primer. ■

Modelspec

Italeri 1:35 Camionetta AS42 Sahariana Kit No.6452

Figure sets

Dragon 6144, Tank T35003, Warrior resin heads.

Paints used

Tamiya; XF-60 Dark Yellow, XF-57 Buff, XF-63 German Grey, XF-67 NATO Green, XF-64 Red Brown, XF-7 Flat Red
Vallejo; 835 Rose Pink, 26230 STILL WATER
Oil Paints; Paynes Grey, Raw Umber, Naples Yellow
Pigments; Gun Metal P 231, Russian Earth P034, European Dust P028, Light Rust P023.

✓ Original subject, Good mouldings.

✗ One piece moulded jerry cans, resin parts pushing up the price unnecessarily.

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Humber Mk.I Scout Car

SKP011

SKP model

1/35
Plastic
model kit

STYRENE SCOUT

Keith Goldsworthy takes a look at an all new styrene Humber Scout Car from SKP.

Is it me or does there seem to be an increase in kits of British WWII vehicles at the moment? The latest kit I have been asked to review is SKP's Humber scout car. SKP are a new manufacturer to me and I believe emanate from Czech Republic. The kit is supplied in a plain cardboard box. There is no fanciful box art, simply a black and white photo of the real thing. Two sprues contain over 100 plastic parts with a brass fret (produced by Eduard) containing some additional pieces such as stowage racks and tool clamps.

The grey plastic used is quite soft and will require careful cutting from the sprue to avoid damage. The surface of the plastic is far from smooth and will provide a key for the first paint coat. On the whole the moulding is reasonably crisp although there is the presence of some flash, particularly on the smaller items. There are also some substantial ejection pins (not just pin marks) that need removal to ensure a correct fitting of parts (these are particularly prominent on the chassis and wheel halves).

The hull is part-built requiring the addition of some upper panels, mudguards, engine access doors, etc. Although some surface detail on the various panels, hatches, etc. is present there is some

prominent detail missing, e.g. the oval panel on the rear panel under the top row of louvres (which need to be thinned for a realistic scale appearance). The mudguards also suffer from being overly thick. The central intake cover over the engine deck is a little undersized when compared with line drawings (www.warwheels.net/images/HumberScoutDrawGMOORE2.jpg) and reference photos. The top of the hull features the sliding hatches which, due to the lack of interior detail will probably need to be modelled in the closed position (unless the space can be filled with some suitable figures).

Care will need to be taken when fitting parts to the chassis and hull as there is a distinct lack of location marks/holes. This is compounded by the lack of part numbers on the sprue. Constant regard to the instructions and reference material will be required.

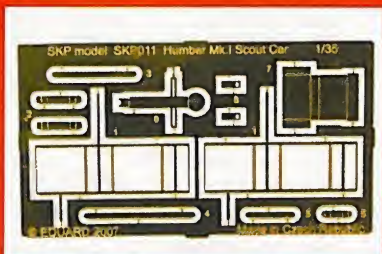
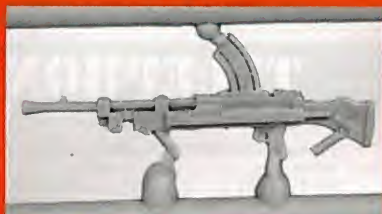
The chassis is provided as a single piece requiring the addition of axles, transmission and suspension components. It is fair to say that detail on the underside of the vehicle is lacking, particularly on the rear of the wheel hubs, springs and transfer box. The modeller will need to provide some wire to complete the attachment of the axles to the springs.

The wheel base of the real vehicle is 91 inches. This seems to scale out quite accurately, as does the overall dimensions of the vehicle, including the wheels. However many of the smaller items seem to be oversized (e.g. Bren guns, aerial base, wing mirrors, pioneer tools). All of these can be replaced with aftermarket items. The POW cans are some of the worse I have seen and will definitely need replacing.

The decal sheet provides dry rub decals with the option to depict one of three different vehicles, one British, one Polish and one Czech.

In conclusion the kit is a welcome addition to the armoured car range of models vehicles. The model will build up to a fair representation of the real thing. However in order to do the Humber Scout Car real justice the modeller has their work cut out to improve the accuracy, particularly of the smaller items. The thick mudguards and louvres would be obvious targets of etch brass replacement should any of the aftermarket companies wish to invest.

Given my suggestions of the necessary additional work required to improve the accuracy I will leave it to the reader to determine if the suggested retail price of £19.99 is justified. ■



NOT Scott T. Hards, President of HobbyLink Japan →

JOURNEY'S

Matt Edwards digs out a couple of older kits from the loft to replicate a scene that caught his eye...



END

The idea for this diorama came from watching a documentary on the Battle of the Bulge.

During the programme, several Sherman Tanks were seen, one of these being an M4A1 (76mm), which unsurprisingly was covered with mud and driving past several abandoned German vehicles. On the side of the Sherman, cables and metal poles had been tied and fixed which were, I believe, to enable foliage to be attached although none was fitted.

Whether the footage was from the actual battle or just stock film I do not know, but I liked the look of the tank so decided to search through my pile of unmade kits, which we all no doubt have, to try and make a replica of the vehicle.

I found an old M4A1 (76mm) Italeri kit. I know this kit came out many moons ago and it has its faults; clearly it doesn't match the standard of today's kits produced by the likes of Tamiya and Dragon, but with some work, I hoped to create a successful model.

GETTING STARTED

Before building started, I referred to my collection of books, magazines and the Web to determine how to detail the kit. I was amazed at how much information was available and could spend a lot of time and money on the vehicle as a result. But, like a lot of us, I work on a limited budget and find it a challenge to do the work myself rather than rely on aftermarket products. So, armed with my spares box, I chose to build using what I had. I used many references during the assembly and will discuss what I did to correct the faults that mattered to me.

CONSTRUCTION

As already stated, the kit is quite old now and the cast texture on the hull armour was missing. By laying on Liquid Poly cement and stippling it with an old brush, I believe I achieved an acceptable cast texture.

Once this was dry, I moved on to the running gear, which went together fairly easily. The spoked wheels from what I gleaned, could still be found on this vehicle in 1944. I drilled four holes into the relevant sides of the bogies as these were missing. I also thinned out the top skids to give a better scale thickness. Bolts were added to the inner side of each skid; these were punched out of plastic card using my punch and die set.

The rear idlers were super glued in place as the tracks, which represent the T54E1 style

of track, are quite detailed but are made from very tough vinyl, thus the rear idler is put under strain and needs some support. The tracks themselves were super glued to the running gear and held in place with the help of small clamps, which I purchased from a hairdressing supplier. The fact that the tracks and running gear were going to be covered in mud meant that I did not have to worry about getting super glue in places that normally may have been seen. If building the model again (in fact there is another in my loft!), I would certainly consider replacing the tracks.

The front fenders were thinned out to a realistic thickness and damaged with a scalpel blade. Also, thin strips of scrap brass were added to the hulls side to depict sand shield attachment points.

I then moved my attention to the top of the hull. Any weld seams that were missing or needed improving were built up first with stretched sprue then fashioned with a pyrogravure, this applies for both vehicles. The periscopes in front of the hatches are all moulded shut, so, these were cut out and replaced by inserting plastic strip, as were the covers. From the spares box, I replaced the light guards and fixed small pieces of stretched sprue on them to represent the rubber bung holders that were to go in holes left by the lights when removed. I also replaced the periscope guards, the tool brackets and the lifting eyes. The tools in the kit are poor but I only replaced one or two, leaving the tool brackets empty, giving the impression of the crew having misplaced or lost them.

The lights and lenses were replaced with items from MV Lenses. Along the side of the hull, as seen on the real vehicle, were fitted the cables and poles that I wanted to depict.

The rear stowage was now put in place. This came from various sources including Verlinden, Tamiya and Italeri. I also made some from thin rolled out strips of epoxy-putty; the creases were made with a wet toothpick. Once fixed, this was all tied down with strips of thin paper and fuse wire to represent the straps and tie-downs.

TURRET

The kit turret is quite good and depicts the T23 type. Again, this was a cast piece but the kit version is quite smooth. From references, the sides needed to be built out slightly. This was achieved with layers of Milliput and when dry, the same technique was used as on the hull for the texture effect. ►





Equipment racks were fixed to the side of the turret using fuse wire; stowage was attached and paper strips helped to give the appearance of the packs being tied to these. The .50 cal machine gun was replaced with a Dragon item added to which was some brass detail from Eduard. It was also given a fuse wire carrying handle on the barrel. Small details were added here and there to the turret using thin brass, plastic strip and fuse wire. Casting numbers were cut from sprues and glued to the mantlet, if used, does need a little work, but I draped mine in a camouflage net made from bandage with tea leaves attached using white glue to give the impression of scrim.

PAINTING

The model was first washed in detergent and when dry, given a spray of matt black to act as a base and hopefully, reveal any minor blemishes that needed to be corrected. Over this was sprayed Tamiya Olive Drab letting it drift away from areas that I wanted to appear as shadows. Another spray of Olive Drab lightened with sand yellow was applied from above so as to lighten certain areas that may be affected by natural light and crew wear and tear. Onto this were dabbed various oil colours that were then blended together with white spirit to give the base green slightly different shades. Once dry, a light wash of raw umber was allowed to flow around

details and into areas of shadow. A light dry brushing was then used to bring out detail.

Chipping was added using thinned acrylic paint to areas of high crew usage by using a finely pointed brush and shades from bright olive to dark brown and black. These colours were used together and singularly. All of the baggage was painted using a mixture of Humbrol enamels and various colours of oil paint. When dry, the whole vehicle received a heavy dusting of weathering powders.

Mud was applied to the running gear and lower hull. This was made from, amazingly, dirt with the addition of white PVA glue, white sand and static grass. It was

painted in various earth colours before a dark wash was added to the hull and mud splatter achieved by dipping a tooth brush in an earth coloured paint, pulling back on the bristles then letting them go.

THE HUMMEL

I wanted the Sherman to be passing an abandoned German vehicle that had run out of fuel and had been left in a hurry by the crew. So, looking through my pile of built, but unpainted kits, I came across a late Hummel produced by Dragon. As with the Italeri kit, the Hummel was produced many years ago and has faults that have since been rectified during various re-issues. When building it, I had added an etched set produced by



All of the figures used in this diorama came from Tamiya's 'Front line break through' M4A3 Sherman late production kit.



The figures were built straight from the box, the only addition the author deciding to use was lead foil for the weapon's slings.



The oil drum and hand pump sum up the German advance during the Ardennes offensive- lack of fuel.



The ageing Italeri .50 calibre machine gun was replaced with a better detailed version left over from a Dragon kit.



The mass of stowage often seen on war time US tanks has been replicated here using a combination of manufacturers accessories. These included items from Tamiya, Verlinden and Italeri. Extra bed rolls were made from epoxy putty.

Eduard. I now added further details missing from around the vehicle and on the 150 mm gun. These included missing bolts, brackets and rivets made from various items and, although not perfect in specification and dimension, none the less looked quite effective and business like and to a standard I was happy with (It certainly looks like a Hummel).

Painting began as per the Sherman but over the black, I sprayed a thin coat of Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow and gradually lightened it in certain areas. The camouflage colours were added using a mixture of Humbrol paints and when dry, decals were applied.

The weathering technique was the same as for

the M4, only swapping sand colours for the olive green. The tracks were painted the appropriate colours with a hint of rust giving the impression that they had not been in contact with the road for a day or two. They and the rest of the running gear were then given a light coat of weathering powders.

The poles on the rear of the vehicle were painted red and white. I have read on various web sites that this was not the case but have recently seen a photo of them on the rear of a Hummel being painted in this manner.

I do not know why this was done (I know that when I was in the army, our mortar platoon painted poles that they carried for ranging in black and white) but if anyone can tell me, I would be interested to find out. Other items of equipment were then painted and weathered with washes. Scratches of various colours were placed in and around the Hummel completing the look.

FRONT AND CENTRE

I wanted the diorama to be one of movement, not of soldiers relaxing.

I decided to use the Tamiya figures from their recent Sherman kits. These are quite detailed and the poses were just

what I was after. I usually change the heads on my figures but decided that they could keep theirs!

Uniforms were painted in a mixture of enamels and oils blending them together, the detail being done with thinned oils and some watercolours so if the lining around a cuff or pocket is painted too thick, it can be easily washed away with the tip of a brush and redone. All of the flesh areas were completed using oils.

SETTING THE SCENE

I purchased a Perspex box at a local stationer and found that if I turned the lid upside down it could be used to mount the diorama on. Before I started, I sprayed the inside of the lid gloss black. A frame was built of thick plastic card and the cobblestone ►



The camouflage netting on the barrel was made using a piece of gauze bandage soaked in PVA glue, then sprinkled with tea leaves.

and pathway was placed on top. This was made from a Form-u-lay mould and fixed within the frame. The slight rise was fashioned from ceiling tiles that were coated with household filler after which, sand and static grass were sprinkled on. A small bush was added and when all was nearly dry, the M4 was pressed on, leaving some track marks and left in situ. The groundwork was painted next. Mud was added round the tank, and the cobbles and path around the Hummel were painted various shades of grey. Once happy with this, I positioned the figures and applied weathering powders to their footwear and the road blending it all together.

A few items of equipment including a fuel barrel, on which I spent quite some time adding light and dark scratches with thinned acrylics, were added making the diorama complete.

I am by no means an expert on vehicles, and model for my own pleasure without losing a lot of sleep when the rivet counters are in town. I enjoy my hobby but I also enjoy my family and job and they all take time! As I have said, I cannot afford all the detail sets available and I make do with what I can and hopefully portray a decent model at the end of it. I do hope that you will see that with a little time and effort, old kits can still look good. So don't be ageist - free them from their dusty boxes! ■



The sprocket teeth have received a metallic sheen where they come in contact with the tracks.

Modelspec

Italeri M4A1 (76mm) and Dragon Hummel (late)

Kits used

Italeri M4A1
Dragon Hummel (late)
Tamiya Allied accessories and fuel drums
Italeri Jerry can set
Verlinden Stowage

Paints used

Tamiya XF-62 Olive Drab
Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow
Humbrol Various Colours
Vallejo 862 Black Grey
Vallejo 893 Flat Earth
Winsor and Newton Oils Raw Umber

Weathering materials

Modellers Guide to the Sherman
(Ambersand Publishing)
Fine Scale Modeller Magazine
Web - Track Link (www.track-link.net)
Modelling The US Army In WW2

Available from

All good model shops
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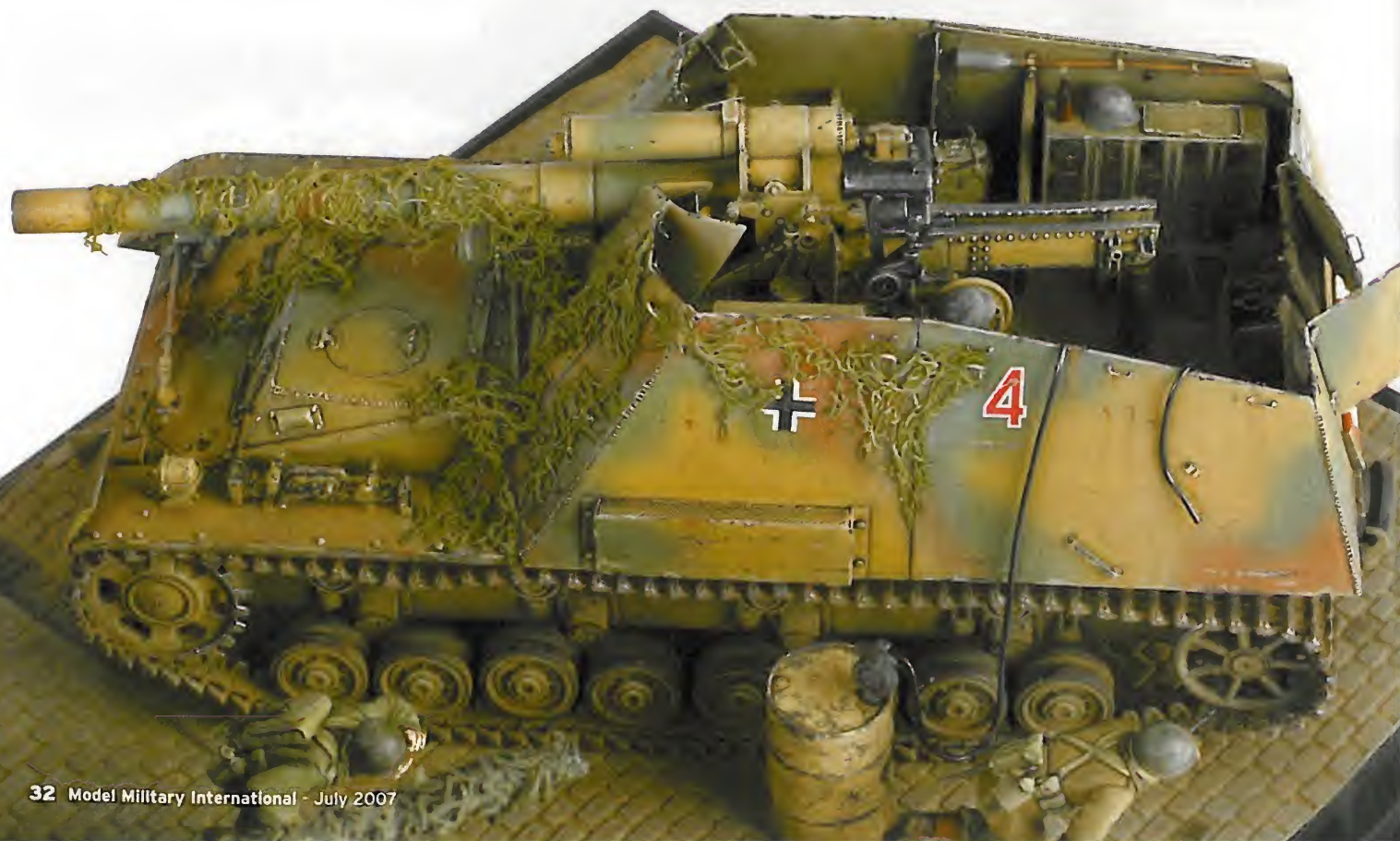


The author added some extra detailing to the fighting compartment of the Hummel in the form of bolts, weld seams and abandoned personal affects.

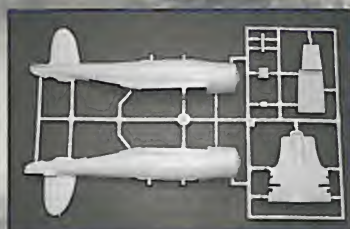


MEET THE AUTHOR

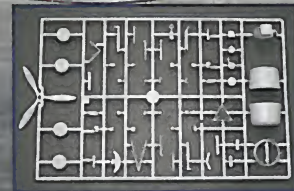
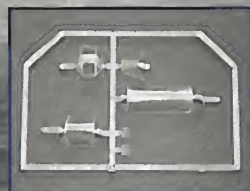
My name is Matt Edwards. I'm 43 years old, and live with my fiancée Tracy in a village in the South East of England. I have children of various ages, all boys, as well as two rescued greyhounds, rescued chickens and I'm fighting and feel as though losing the argument on the rescued goat front! I started modelling as a child, getting the bug whilst watching my dad build his Airfix kits - Then watching my sister break them. I began serious modelling after leaving the Army. I served in the 'Royal Green Jackets' (now the 'Rifles') for about eleven years. I wish I had a lot more time to devote to the hobby but with home and work, (I'm on a firearms unit in the police) time is limited. I enjoy all aspects of our hobby and will build all manner of military vehicles. My only quirk being that they must have been used in action, so as to add a little history to them, as it were. I love reading about the hobby and try to incorporate other builder's ideas and techniques hopefully gaining from them and so improving my own. Happy modelling. ■



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PANTHER TRACKS

Sam Dwyer gets his hands on Dragon's Smart Kit of the Panther G final version, but what does he think of it?



Let's get one thing out of the way, I could devote an entire article to the development and history of the Panther, in fact an entire article could be devoted to the development and history of the inner road wheel bolts on the Panther... Let's just say that there has been a lot written about them, and leave it at that. Basically the Panther was a tank developed and employed by the Germans during WWII.

Right off the bat I have to say that I love the DML Panther G late Smart Kit. I have four in the cupboard waiting for their slot in my production schedule. It's a pretty fantastic model. Up until now, we have only had the (crusty) DML night fighting Panther G - which traced its roots back to the old Gunze Sangyo hi-tech kits, and the Tamiya Panther G. Both these kits were quite good, but took an equal amount of work to get them up to standard. This isn't the case

with the DML kit - it can be built straight out of the box into a very accurate rendition of a late model Panther G - and that's pretty much exactly what I've done.

TO THE KIT

The DML kit comes with a minimum of etch, hence its 'smart kit' designation. DML have worked some wonders into this model, so much detail is incorporated into every part with the extensive use of slide moulds. The only etch included is for the engine deck mesh and some other small cupola parts. I basically built this kit over the course of a weekend, not a long weekend, but a regular, two-day weekend. There were no gaps, and only a minimal amount of mould seam lines to remove. DML really pulled out all the stops with this model, some of the parts are tiny. Even the spare track retaining pins are included in plastic - usually you need to either make these from fuse wire, or use an etch set! ►



One of the clever inclusions by Dragon is the use of darker coloured dots to aid the correct placement of optional parts, such as in this case on the turret sides for foliage hangers.



The level of detail throughout the kit is first rate, from the detailed driver's hatch interiors to the tiny mushroom headed lifting lugs on the ends of the mantlet.



The Tank Commander was converted from the 'Actung Jabo' figure set from Dragon. He has received a new head from Alpine Miniatures. Alpine Miniatures include two heads with each of their figures.



In these new 'Smart Kits' the etched brass has been kept to a minimum and only essential parts have been included such as the mesh for the various engine deck grilles.



Even on areas which will not be visible on the finished model, Dragon have not cut corners when it comes to detailing.



The author assembled the tracks and wheels before painting. Thanks to Dragon's new Magic Track, assembly only took 30 minutes in total.



Each track run was made up from 94 links. Tamiya super thin liquid glue was run over so they retained their shape.

OUT OF THE BOX

Early on I decided to build the kit out of box, but wanted to incorporate it on a small diorama base. I mocked up the rough shape of the groundwork, so that I could articulate the suspension to fit to it properly. The suspension components are separate, so it's easy to articulate the torsion bar arms, I just glued them to the hull, and as the glue was drying, pushed them into the position I wanted. The road wheels were dry-fitted to the torsion arms for this exercise; I wanted to ensure that the suspension sat right for a vehicle crossing rail lines. At this stage I also built the tracks. DML include what they term 'magic track' - these individual link tracks are stunning, they include the correct hollow guide horns, and can be assembled with virtually no clean up. I made up a run of 94 links, ran Tamiya super thin liquid glue along it, and then draped the run over

the wheels. Building the tracks this way allows the whole assembly to be removed for easy painting later. Assembling the tracks took only 30 minutes for both runs! As I mentioned, the actual building of this model took place over the course of a weekend, the kit is so good I didn't feel the need to embellish it with aftermarket accessories at all.

machine gunner to be leaning way forward out of his hatch, checking when the tank was about to breach the rail lines. The commander started life leaning forward out of his hatch, but I just couldn't get him to look right, so I moved him further into the cupola, just with his head sticking out, and with his hand resting on the rim of the cupola hatch.

"...these individual link tracks are stunning, they include the correct hollow guide horns"

FIGURES

While the glue on the model itself was drying, I set about building some crew figures. I used DML figures, mostly from their 'Achtung Jabo' set, and whilst not a 'Gen 2' set they have excellent detail. I replaced the heads with some from Hornet and Alpine and mixed and matched arms till I got the right pose. I wanted the co-driver/hull

CAMOUFLAGE

These late panther G's were the last steel wheel vehicles built by M.A.N and look to have been delivered to the troops during March and April 1945, right at the end of the war. I've seen many shots of them in two colour, hard edged camouflage paint, current consensus is green and brown, not green and sand. DML would have

you paint the Panther in green and sand; I chose to push ahead with the green/brown combo. I kicked the painting off by spraying the entire model in Gunze H405 Olive Green. I then mixed Tamiya XF-4 Yellow Green to it, and sprayed a misted coat over all the upper and horizontal surfaces to start the weathering process. Once the green coats had dried, I set about masking the areas that I wanted to remain green. I used Tamiya tape for this job. I began by laying the tape down over the surface to be masked, then drawing onto the tape the pattern that I wanted. The tape was then peeled off, cut out with a fresh scalpel blade, and then re-applied to the model. This sounds time consuming, but really it isn't. I found this method easier, and more effective than using Maskol type products or Blu-tac. The brown was then sprayed, using Gunze H406 Chocolate Brown. This was lightened with Gunze Flesh and



Thanks to the individual suspension arms supplied in the kit, the model can be realistically placed onto uneven groundwork.

PAINTING



As this is very late war vehicle, the author opted for an olive green base coat. Gunze H405 Olive green. This may seem strange, but the German High Command decreed that the standard sand yellow be replaced with olive green as the base colour.



Following the olive green base coat, Tamiya Yellow Green was misted over the model's surfaces in random patterns. This does two things, firstly it add some visual interest to the monotone base colour and secondly it starts the weathering process.



Compare this photo to the first and it is easy to see what a difference misting on of the Tamiya Yellow Green has made to the basic olive base coat.



Tamiya masking tape was laid over the model. The author then used a pencil to draw out the desired pattern. The tape was then removed and carefully cut out using a new scalpel blade, the tape was then re-applied and then burnished down before applying the red brown.



For the red brown the author chose Gunze H406 Chocolate Brown. Following a base coat Gunze Flesh was added to the airbrush to help tone down and fade the Chocolate Brown as part of the weathering process.



The next stage was to carefully remove the masking tape. One of the advantages of this Smart Kit is there are hardly any small etched brass bits to pull off by accident whilst removing the tape!



With the basic airbrushing complete the tools, road wheel tyres and other detail parts were picked out using Vallejo acrylics and Humbrol enamels.



The hull hatches were painted using Vallejo Terracotta. The advantage of using acrylics is their fast drying time, which allows colour washes to be applied much sooner than if using enamels.



In this shot we can see the author has 'post shaded' the model using a very thin mix of Tamiya Flat Black and Red Brown. This mix was then carefully airbrushed around details and along panel lines etc.



Markings on this late war Panther were limited to just turret numbers.



◀ sprayed over the brown areas to begin its weathering. Upon peeling all the masks off, you're left with a rather gaudy paint scheme - I always hate the look of my models at this stage! I added and painted the tools at this stage, and added decals too - in this instance '422'.

PANTHER UNITS

A word here on unit allocations - there are some quite well known shots of some of these last steel wheel panthers, it's yet to be determined to whom they belonged. The following units got Panthers this late in the game:

- I./29 of Panzer Division Munchenberg
- 4th Kp Panzer Regiment 11
- Pz Abt Hermann Goring
- II./Pz.Rgt 2, 2nd Panzer Div
- I./Pz Regt 6, 3rd Panzer Div

It's really not known to whom these Panthers belonged, which is a shame as it might have helped with markings etc. I'm sure evidence will come to light shortly! The shots of these Panthers show them wearing no markings other than a turret number painted in white. After I applied the kit decals, I applied a coat of Gunze H20 flat clear and really set about weathering the model.

WEATHERING

My favourite way to kick off weathering is to apply a post shade, I've been over this in depth in previous articles and so I'll only touch on it here. It's basically an airbrushed application of a heavily thinned mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown, sprayed into and around details, nooks and crannies, simulating an accumulation of grime and crud. I painted the open hatches and hatch openings with Vallejo Terracotta, then post shaded them as well. My approach to weathering this model was not to go too nuts, realistically the vehicle may not have seen a lot of combat, being produced too close to the end of the war. Therefore, I tried to exercise restraint. The whole model was coated with an application of Mig's new filters - I have to say they are excellent. By applying a couple of heavy coats, you can get some pleasing fading and dusty effects, particularly on horizontal surfaces.

The running gear and lower hull areas were given a coat of mud - well-dried mud. Again, restraint was the key here. I mixed this mud from Mig's European Earth pigments, and Winsor and Newton artist acrylic gel medium. This



stuff is great for bulking out mud, and it doesn't obscure detail! This too got a coat or three of Mig's filters. I finished off weathering by applying some rain or dirt streaks, using Tamiya XF-57 Buff, very heavily thinned. This was sprayed in a downward motion on all vertical or near vertical surfaces.

The crew figures were painted with Vallejo acrylics for the uniforms, and artist oils for their faces and hands. They were glued into the model with five-minute epoxy. As a last touch for the model itself, I added an antenna. This I turned down from a length of 30 thou Evergreen styrene rod. Wouldn't you know it, just as I'd done this, someone released a turned brass antenna!



The figures used in this scene all came from the Dragon range. Heads and arms were swapped until the author was happy with the desired poses.



A length of Dragon's railway track has been used for the focal point of the groundwork, but unfortunately this set is no longer available.



The level of the groundwork was built-up using polystyrene foam. The shape of the slope was formed with Das Modelling Clay, which the author had a real problem with, due to the fact it shrank a lot whilst drying!



Heki 'Wildegass' was used for the long grass. This product is designed for model railways, but is perfect for our needs. Heki products should be available from most good model railway shops.



The author used strips of balsa to represent railway sleepers which have been laid between the tracks to prevent damage to both the rails and the vehicles tracks.



The two tank riders came from Dragon's 'Last Battle Austria 1945' set. Painting was completed using Vallejo acrylics and oil paints.

GROUNDWORK

For the diorama base, I was able to finally locate a set of long out of production DML railway tracks. These are pretty nice; I added the rails to the sleepers, then cut them to the length I wanted for the base I had. I bulked up the embankment with polystyrene foam, and then made the groundwork from Das modelling clay which turned out to be a disaster as it shrunk a lot! I filled the gaps with Aves' Apoxie Sculpt. Clean, unused kitty litter was pressed into the base, and ballast that I sourced from a

train shop was added between the sleepers. To secure this, I mixed up some PVA glue and water and, using a disposable plastic pipette, dripped the water/glue mix over the loose stones. After a couple of days, the ballast and the groundwork was rock hard and ready for paint. I used Heki 'Wildegass' for the longer grass, and Heki static grass for the shorter stuff. The Wildegass has some seedpods or something mixed in, and looks quite realistic after a coat of paint. I used Tamiya acrylics to paint the groundwork

using a mixture of various browns and greens. Rustall was used to weather the railway tracks. Lengths of balsa wood were added between the tracks to simulate old sleepers thrown down to form a makeshift rail crossing. This was painted and then distressed with the back of a knife blade to make it look like armoured vehicles had crossed it already.

I really wanted to convey a look of movement with this model and the bow gunner leaning forward started that look, but I wanted some infantry for the back deck to really set it off. I used a couple of guys from the new DML 'Last Battle Austria 1945' set - these are awesome figures straight from the box, and that's how I built them, with virtually no modifications at all. They too were painted with Vallejo acrylics and artist oils.

CONCLUSION

So, I really have sung the praises of this model from DML - no I'm not on their payroll! The Panther has always been a favourite of mine, and this kit really raises the bar to a whole new level. As with any kit, there is always stuff that can be improved or replaced, but I really think that this is one model even the biggest nitpicker can be happy building straight out of the box. ■

Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 Panther G Final Version Smart Kit
Item No. 6268

Kits used

DML 6268 Panther G final version Smart Kit.
DML 6278 Last Battle Austria Gen 2 figures.
DML6191 Achtung Jabo figures.

Paints used

Tamiya XF-1 Matt Black
Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow
Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown
Gunze Sangyo H405 Olive Green
Gunze Sangyo H406 Chocolate Brown
Vallejo 876 Buff
Vallejo 830 German uniform colour/Field Grey
Vallejo 862 Black Grey
Vallejo 835 Salmon Rose
Vallejo 872 Chocolate Brown
Vallejo 928 Light Flesh
Vallejo 845 Sunny Skin Tone
Vallejo Game Colour 72065 Terracotta

- ☒ Fantastic subject. Ease of building, New standard of model engineering from DML. Able to be built as last steel wheel or regular late panther.
- ☒ You know, I can't really think of a single downside to this model!

Available from

All good model shops.

Rating ●●●●●●●●●●

The realistic caked on mud on the lower glassis plate was made using a combination of Mig Production's European Earth and Winsor and Newton artist acrylic gel medium.



FOREST MANAGEMENT, AUSSIE STYLE

The Editor builds Cromwell Models Combat 72 Centurion as used by the Australians during the Vietnam War.

Having built a few of these Combat 72 models from Cromwell (although my main interest is in 1:35) I have become a real fan of these simple to build and highly detailed resin kits.

WHAT YOU GET

This Centurion contains more parts than any of the others I have built to date, but having said that, it still contains less than 20 parts. The level of detail is superb, but the most amazing feature is how something as complicated as the entire hull including running gear can be cast as in single piece, requiring only the 100 gallon fuel tank, drivers hatches and exhaust

pipe tail-pieces to be added.

Construction really doesn't take very long, which is obviously a really good thing when needing to build several if equipping an army for wargaming. The most time consuming task during the construction stage is the need to remove the two large casting blocks on the track runs. I used a pair of Tamiya side cutters to remove the majority of the blocks, before taping a sheet of 180 grade wet and dry abrasive-paper to a flat surface, then by using a figure of eight motion over the wet and dry, removed the remainder of the casting blocks.

As a side note the figure of eight motion ensures the parts are

sanded evenly, which cannot really be guaranteed when just using a circular motion only.

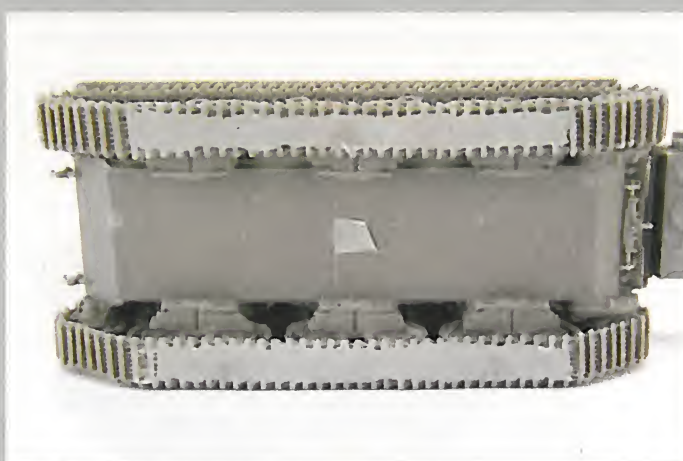
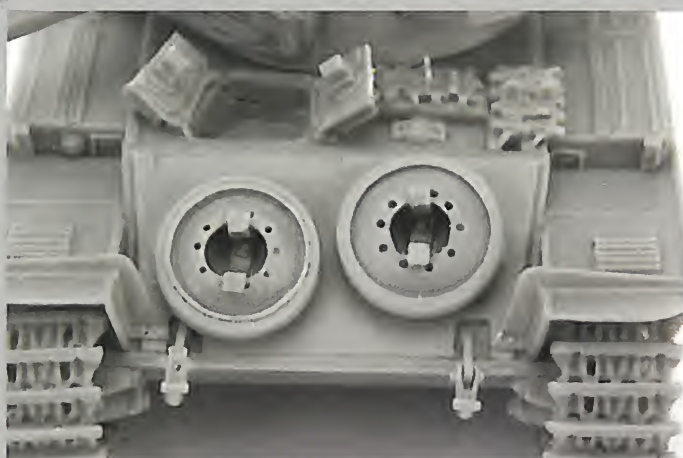
The only problem I did have regarding the construction was that no instructions are included, and I could have done with some help as to exactly how the searchlight stowage frame assemblies and attaches to the turret. In the end I opted to leave it off entirely.

Since building the model and whilst writing this article I went onto Cromwell's website to check the exact title of the model for the model spec I found the photos of their display model, which shows exactly how this part goes together!

PAINTING

After a quick blast with some automotive acrylic grey primer aerosol the model was ready to receive some camouflage. To start with I gave the entire tank a coat of Vallejo Track Primer, this was followed by misting on Vallejo Modelair German Green 71020. Finally Lifecolor Field Grey mixed with Israeli Sand Grey was sprayed onto the centre of all details and panels etc. This helped give a nice sun bleached base colour I had in mind.

The rest of the techniques used, are best explained with the help of the accompanying photos. ■



In these shots we can see the level of detail incorporated into the castings, from the fully stowed turret basket to the tiny boot scrapers on the top of the exhaust guard and front fender. The most time consuming part of the assembly was the removal of the casting blocks on the base of the tracks.

"The level of detail is superb but the most amazing feature is how something as complicated as the whole hull and suspension can be cast as a single piece"



Almost ready for painting - all that remains to attach are the turret smoke dischargers. The commander's .30 cal machine gun will be added after painting has been completed.

PAINTING



To start the painting process, a base coat of Vallejo Model Color Braun Violet was airbrushed on using an Iwata HP-C Plus. Although this is an aircraft colour, it is a perfect tone for pre-shading green and olive drab vehicles.



The next step was to mist on Vallejo Model Air German Green. In the 'old days' Humbrol French Artillery Green was said to be the closest match to the colour of Australian armour, but unfortunately this paint is no longer available, so it is a case of having to mix colours by eye.



To simulate a vehicle that has been 'in theatre' for some time Life Color Field Grey and Israeli sand Grey were misted onto the centre of all panels etc. The secret of misting the colours on is to keep the paint very thin and (if you're fortunate enough to own a variable pressure compressor) keep the pressure low, i.e. 10 to 15PSI.



The next stage is to give the entire model a filter and colour wash. The filter helps to tone any high contrast between the airbrushed shades and the colour wash accentuates specific details.



Compare this photo to the one above and it is clear to see how the combination the colour wash and the use of the Sin Industries Filter has really toned down the finish, yet at the same time brought out the model's details.



Due to the small size of the model, some drybrushing was employed to help emphasize the detail. Detail painting and markings were then applied prior to an application of both dry and wetted Mig Production's African Earth pigments.

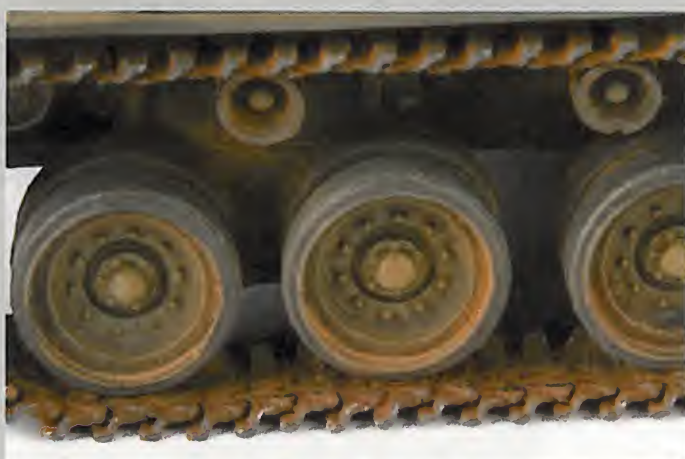




The author found a very useful colour photo on an Australian Army in Vietnam website that clearly showed the fire extinguisher on the turret of a Centurion being painted in bright red, so that's exactly what has been done here. (Oh no, is this the start of another fire extinguisher colour debate...? MN.)



The large callsign on the turret basket was a standard feature the Australian armour operating in Vietnam. Note the rack of .30 cal ammo boxes stowed behind the Commanders and Loaders hatches.



In this photo we can see how realistic an effect can be achieved using the Mig Production's African Earth pigment (PO 38). The author felt this colour looked closer to the tone he had in mind than actual the actual colour listed as Vietnam Earth (PO 31).



Random dots of various rust tones have been used to simulate blistering and peeling paint on the exhaust guards.

Modelspec

Cromwell Models Combat72 Centurion Mk. V - Vietnam

Paints used

Mig filler brown for dark green
Mig Productions African dust
Mig Productions Industrial earth oil paint
Vallejo Dark Rubber

Reference

Vietnam Tracks - Simon Dunston
Vietnam Armor in Action - Concord Publications
Vanguard book on the Centurion

✓ Simplicity of construction amazing detail and casting quality.

✗ No instructions.

Available from

www.cromwellmodels.com

Rating ●●●●●●●●

The completed model waiting for some suitable crew figures. Note the aerials are made from carbon fibre and are available from Accurate Armour Ltd.





TAMIYA TWISTER

Luke Pitt takes a peek inside Tamiya's latest 1:48 offering, the Flakpanzer Wirbelwind.

The kit has some 185 parts moulded in sand coloured plastic and is presented in a very attractive black bordered box with a first class and technically correct illustration on the box top. The level of detail on all plastic parts is both crisp and moulded to a high standard. The lower hull is cast in metal and is primed in grey as with all the Tamiya 1:48 scale range; it is moulded well but lacks any real detail.

The kit basically consists of all the lower hull and suspension sprues from Tamiya's first Panzer IV (Kit number 32544). The diecast hull is devoid of most of the finer details with just the basic bottom side channels and the return roller and idler mounts included. The running gear on the other hand, is made in plastic and is quite well detailed. Also included are the later type drive sprockets, road wheels and return rollers with a choice of either the early tube or later cast type rear idlers. I would have liked Tamiya to include the early drive sprockets as you see a lot of this type in reference photos. The suspension units are a single piece and fit snugly to the hull sides. The final drive housings are separate

parts that simply fit into place with the aid of a locating pin to ensure they fit at the correct angle. The tracks are moulded in plastic and are 'link-and-length', broken up in long sections for the upper and lower runs with shorter sections for everything else in between. The upper track run has a subtle sag included which is a nice touch. The track is of the later lightweight design with the solid guide horn.

The upper hull is a large single moulding with separate drivers plate, rear intake louvres, upper rear panel and hull hatches. The engine deck doors are moulded in place, as is the front brake inspection hatch. Only the front transmission inspection plate is separate (this is to allow the fitting of the screws that hold the upper and lower hulls together). Some of the tools on the fenders are moulded in place while others are separate. The separate tools include the axe, shovel, three part jack, wire cutters and wrenches. The only thing to watch for with the upper and lower hull sections is a small area underneath the fenders that has to be filled to avoid that 'see-through' look.

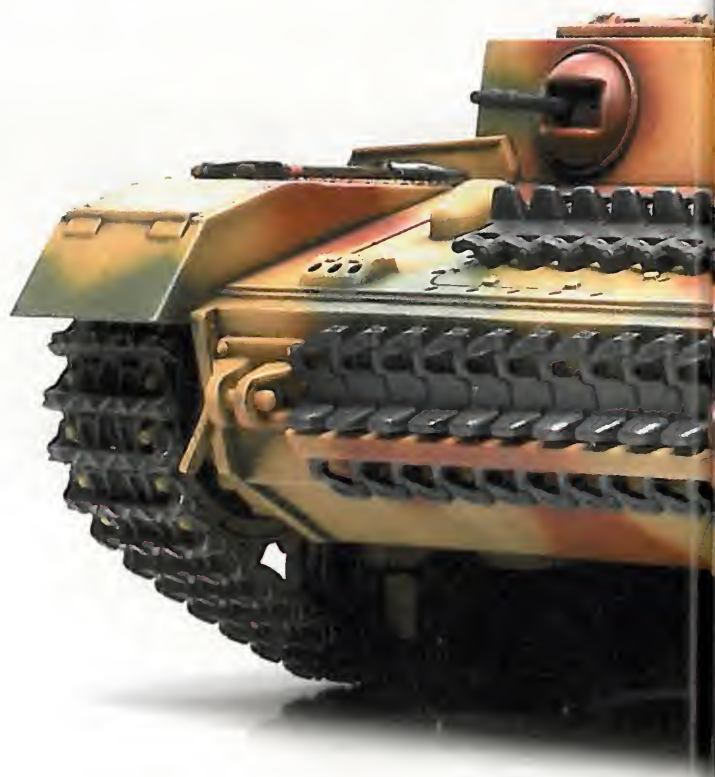
The Wirbelwind turret, crew and quad 2cm guns take up three

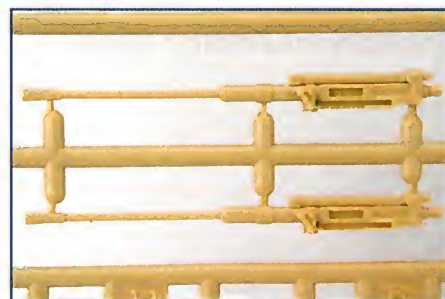
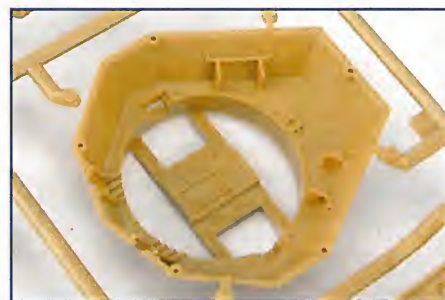
sprues and are entirely new.

The turret is moulded in upper and lower sections. Tamiya have elected to place the gun mounting on the bottom half of the turret, which is incorrect. On the real vehicle, the gun was mounted on a platform supported by two "I" beams fixed to the hull with the gun pivoting on its 360-degree access via this static mount. However with the 3 figures (included in the kit) positioned, you are not going to see a whole lot of the floor. Even if the figures are not fitted and you choose to model the turret pointing straight ahead, you would be hard pressed to tell it is incorrect. It is only when the turret is turned and you are looking into it from the top that you can tell. The sidewalls of the turret itself are a little thick and would benefit from some thinning

for a more scale like appearance.

The gun itself is fairly basic with the most noticeable problem being the flash suppressors, which are moulded solid. The suppressors are a very significant feature of this vehicle so I'm at odds to understand why Tamiya decided to mould them this way. The gun sight or 'schwebekreisser' is also moulded solid but this is an easy fix and forgivable. The instructions are, as always with Tamiya kits, first rate, but on this occasion give only one choice of markings, that being a tri colour scheme used in France. This kit is not without its flaws but for most part, they are simple to rectify. I welcome this addition to the ever-expanding 1:48 Tamiya armour range. I plan on writing a full build review and article in the following months, so stay tuned. ■





DONT MISS A THING....



Issue 1

- Dragon 1:35 Sherman Firefly
- TECHGUIDE - Resin kits
- Verlinden's 200mm Fallschirmjäger bust
- Vietnam war vignette
- Trumpeter 1:35 CH-47A Chinook
- » and more...



Issue 2

- Dragon Vorpaz IV Preview
- Soviet SU122 Tank Destroyer
- Tamiya Churchill MkVII
- A wrecked and recovered Raupenschlepper Ost
- Tamiya updated Krupp Protze
- Challenger 2 Reference
- » and more...



Issue 3

- Sicilian M7 diorama (part 1)
- Italeri M60 Blazer
- Trumpeter KV-I
- Alan Hobbies Flakpanzer 38T
- Dragon Hunting Tiger
- Academy M2A2 OIF preview
- The US Army's MIAHA Abrams reference
- » and more...



Issue 4

- Skybow 1:48 Tiger
- Scratch built Soviet 2A3 Atomic Canon
- Sicilian M7 diorama (part 2)
- M7 reference
- Eduard Early Hetzer
- Tamiya Char BI Bis
- Dragon Early Panther
- Italeri re-released M47 Patton preview
- » and more...



Issue 5

- Tamiya's 1:48 Cromwell
- Italeri LVT 4 (part I)
- Cromwell Models 1:72 Israeli M60 Batash
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- 2006 MAVFA show report
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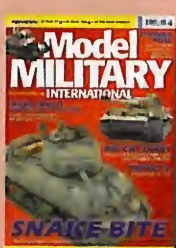
Issue 6

- Model Victoria resin Centauro armoured car
- Dragon Sd.Kfz 251
- Tamiya AAVP7AI UGWS
- AAV7-I reference
- Dragon 1:72 M4A3 (76mm) Sherman
- Italeri LVT 4 (part 2)
- Diamond-T reference
- TECHGUIDE - worn paint effect
- » and more...



Issue 7

- Italeri 1:48 Chinook preview
- Italeri Sd.Kfz 232 6-rad
- AFV Club Centurion Mk5/1
- Centurion reference
- Tamiya early Panther G
- The US Army's latest camouflage uniform reference
- MiniArt T-70 light tank
- TECHGUIDE - make cheap, simple and very realistic tarpaulins
- » and more...



Issue 8

- Dragon 1:35 MIAAIM Abrams preview
- Cromwell Models Challenger 2
- Dragon Flak37 88mm preview
- The US Army's Stryker ICV reference
- Tamiya's 1:16 Tiger I
- Tristar Flak Panzer IA
- Dragon Operation Cobra M4AI (76mm)
- » and more...



Issue 9

- Dragon Sd.Kfz 234/4 Pakwagen
- 1:48 Tamiya Panther G
- Building and painting the UNIMOG S404
- Legend M60 Batash conversion
- Full size AS90 reference
- Dragon 1:35 Flakpanzer I
- » and more...



Issue 10

- Amazing 1:72 Berlin diorama
- Tamiya's 1:48 VW
- Phil Stutinskas's Euro winning Panzer IV
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- Heavy Humvee full size reference
- Mig Productions' Hi-Lux pick-up truck
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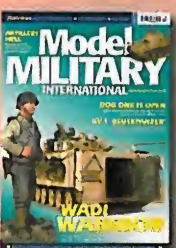
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- P&Js 150mm SS Grenadier figure
- Tamiya's T55 with mine plow
- Detailing Dragon's Ferdinand
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- Sherman 105mm conversion
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- » and more...



Issue 12

- Building Dragon's Marder II
- A tale of two of Tamiya SU-85s
- Dragon's MIA AIM Abrams main battle tank
- Adding zimmerit to AFV Clubs Late Tiger I
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- » and more...



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- HobbyBoss Danish Leopard 2 A5
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- Op. Telic Warrior diorama Part I
- Trumpeter's captured KV-I
- Afghan scrapyard diorama
- Mi98 towed howitzer reference
- Sovereign 2000 Humber Mk I armoured car
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- » and more...



Issue 14

- Dragon Sd.Kfz.234 Puma
- Cromwell Models 1:72 IDF Achzarit APC
- Dragon Panzer III in a desert setting
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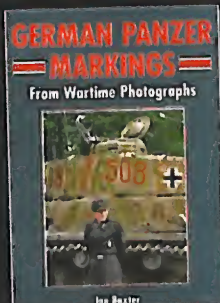
Feature of the month

"German Panzer Markings from Wartime Photographs"

Author: Ian Baxter
Published by Crowood

£19.99

A Perfect book for the modellers and German Panzer fanatics alike comes this new book from Crowood Publishing in their large Hardback series of books. Containing 128 Pages of mainly Black and White Photo's showing German Panzers, SPGs, Armoured Vehicles and their markings in World War II. There is also a small colour section with colorized photos and the markings in more detail with explanations describing unit etc. A very handy reference guide to have on the shelf.



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Letters

RECOMMENDED READING

Panzerspähwagen



Leichter Panzerspähwagen (2 cm Kw K 38) (Sd.Kfz. 222)

PANZERSPAHWAGEN

RYTON PUBLICATIONS • AVAILABLE FROM WWW.BOOKWORLDWS.COM

The Sd.kfz.222 has always been a favourite vehicle of mine and is one I have wanted to build again. I built one several years ago for an article in my good mate Spencer Pollard's magazine. At the time I didn't have a lot of reference, which is where this excellent book from Ryton steps in, full of clear, sharp war time photos together with lots of large colour shots of preserved examples, including vehicles undergoing restoration make this 150 page hardback landscape format book the perfect reference guide. The Editor.

DIORAMA TIPS

Firstly, as everyone else, I must congratulate you on a great magazine, it really is the best out there. I've been a subscriber to Tamiya Mag since well into the last millennium when it was once every two months, now I subscribe to both mags and it's once every two weeks, crickey!

I email to ask one quick question and offer one suggestion. The question, what has happened to Jager Miniatures, every time I try to go to their site I get a web hosting site instead, do they still exist. And the suggestion, how about more detailed articles on diorama building instead of being embedded in a model building article. I know they pop up now and again but I would love to see detailed articles on how to build a plaster wall, how to lay the best grass, desert ground work, Tarmac, beach, beach grasses, trees, bushes, summer mud, winter mud, snow, water, puddles, river beds and on and on. Like I say, I know these ideas appear within the magazines with the main model but to have dedicated tech like articles that could be book marked and used as references as and when they are needed would be great.

Kind regards,
Adrian.

Ed Says; Jager, as far as we know are no longer trading. As for the diorama features, we would love to have dedicated features on all these topics but have to make compromises due to space, time and what we actually receive

in the way of articles from our contributors.

There are however some very good books available dedicated to modelling dioramas etc. When I started modelling seriously back in 1993 I made a point of picking up the Verlinden Way series along with Shep Paines book on Diorama modelling. These books were a huge help to me and I still refer to them every time I start work on one of my own dioramas.

PAINT FIRST OR GLUE

Hi Spud, many congrats on an ever-improving mag. Just a little question for you. It may sound daft but there are no daft questions, only daft modellers who might be missing a point. I have noticed from reading and looking at the pictures in the articles in the mag that people tend to assemble a figure completely before painting. i.e. Arms, heads, webbing gear etc. Also I have noticed that on AFV building folk tend to put things like spare track links, vehicle tools, jerry cans etc. on the tank prior to painting. Is this for the benefit of the photo? Because I tend to paint all the 'bits and bobs' away from the tank and then stick them on after I have painted it. Am I being the odd one out here?

Cheers, Andy
via e-mail.

Ed says; In some of the articles the models are temporarily assembled for the photos, after which the wheels, tracks and other fittings will be removed for painting. But it

all really depends on the individual modeller and what ever they are most comfortable with, I know of some modellers who paint lots of the model while still on the sprue. I personally assemble the whole model including tools prior to painting, the only parts I will generally leave separate are wheels and or tracks and gun barrels. There are no hard and fast rules, if you feel an item will be difficult to paint in situ, leave it off until painting is complete.

REPLY TO RANT

I'm not usually moved to writing letters to magazines but I'm finding it hard to understand the attitude of some modellers. Now I've been building models for some 20 years, aircraft, tanks, trucks even some cars etc. in plastic, brass, white metal and even wood but usually to 1:48 scale, I have made the occasional 1:35 scale tank, built most of my car models in 1:24 even built figures in 1:32, 100mm etc., and in all this time I'm sure my friends will back me up on this I've never been moved to complain about Tamiya wasting their time and money on endless radio controlled racing cars, educational toys or even those ready built model things they make. It has never bothered me in that no one except a few small manufacturers and perhaps Bandai made plastic kits in 1:48 I just made what was available. I didn't feel the need to complain in writing about Tamiya or anyone else for that matter bringing out yet another Sherman or Tiger in

1:35 that was just the way it has been for years, so please all you fellow modellers out there, if a major manufacturer decides to make a car (looking forward to the BMW from Hasegawa) a tank or anything for that matter in 1:48 scale that isn't an aircraft please keep your opinions to yourself, some of us that have been quiet for years (and there are more of us than I think you can imagine) are jumping for joy! Got to love the Admiralty scale, long live 1:48!

Allan Simpson

WHY THE CHANGE?

After just reading the letter "Why the change?" In a previous edition of MMI, I really feel I need to address the issues raised by Mr. Greenway. First of all, just because Tamiya, AFV Club, HobbyBoss, "the aftermarket boys", and countless other small manufacturers are doing 1:48 vehicles and accessories, it doesn't mean that 1:35 will suffer. Last time I looked there were a handful of 1:48 kits on the shelf at my LHS, but tons of 1:35. There are twelve new items relating to 1:35 in this issue, and two for 1:48. Mr. Greenway won't run out of options any time soon. If anyone should be complaining, it should be 1:48 people. Secondly, if you want to get (and keep) children interested in modelling, what is the better option: give them a 1:48 Tamiya Sherman which they can build in a couple of evenings at the kitchen table and makes for a great looking

WRITE TO:

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tank, or a Dragon 16 sprue 1:35 M4A1 which will take them three months? Yes, 1:48 is simpler and easier, and the detail is of course not as good as a 1:35 (which isn't as good as 1:16 anyway, so it's a moot discussion), but none of these "1:35'ers" seem to complain about 1:72 being without detail. If you want models for the kids to play with, Corgi do a great line of diecast vehicles which will stand up to any sandbox battle.

1:48 is a great scale; it sits nicely in the middle of 1:35 and 1:72, has a good level of detail which can be made better with P/E, they build quickly, paint easily, lots of options for additions such as stowage and crew, and they look great finished. There is a lot more option out there than people think; I'm keeping to the African campaign and I have a build list of about 30 vehicles, without doing the same one twice, all existing or announced kits, including those great looking Crusaders on the back of the magazine.

No one's stabbing anyone in the back over these scales. 1:35 has its market, 1:48 has its market, and so does 1:16, 1:72 and 1:76 and there's no reason why they can't peacefully coexist. If people have misgivings over the possibilities, visit Track48.com for some great examples of what's possible. Long live modelling, whatever the scale.

**Best regards,
 Nik Grundstrom**

P.S. My spraybooth hasn't exploded yet!

COMPENDIUM

It took ten issues to finally get MMI to our local hobby shop, but it was well worth the wait. Nice work! We publish a quarterly magazine dedicated to 1:72 scale models of all types, Encyclopedia of 1:72 Scale Models. It is a follow-on to our original book of several years back with a similar title. Our coverage includes aircraft and related subjects as well as vehicles, figures, artillery and much more. We try to avoid listing duplicate efforts such as the current fortunate trend that has Italeri re-issuing ESCI kits. As many illustrations as possible are crammed into each issue. We thought that your readers may be interested in a couple of statistics covering vehicles in our chosen scale.

We database every vehicle kit and model produced in 1:72 scale and close (such as the once popular 1:76 scale), in every medium from injection moulded plastic to cast metal. We cover the small but increasing civilian automobiles

as well as military subjects. The numbers increase virtually every day. The totals for today (4/17/04) are:

Vehicles: 4,635
 Vehicle Conversions: 333
 Vehicles Parts & Accessories: 415
 Artillery: 500
 Figures: 3,644 (many of which are sets of as many as fifty figures)
 Structures: 687
 Terrain & Dioramas: 493
 Not bad for a scale that many pundits said was dead just a few years ago!
 We hope that your readers find the above of interest. If you or your readers would like to contact us here is how to do so:

Tom Young, MAI/ESM 72
38 Prince Royal Passage
Corte Madera, California, 94925 USA
maiesm72@netscape.com

**MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR****Back in the groove**

It's a good feeling to get some of my own articles in this issue. The last model I managed to get finished was the Tamiya 1:48 Pershing and due to moving house and one thing and another proved to be a logistics nightmare. Thankfully I now have a new work room up and running, admittedly the two I have managed to finish are hardly Euro Militaire winning projects, but it was a really nice feeling to get back into the hobby I enjoy so much. I actually think it has done me some good and the modelling juices are flowing and I have a stack of projects I can't wait to get started on.

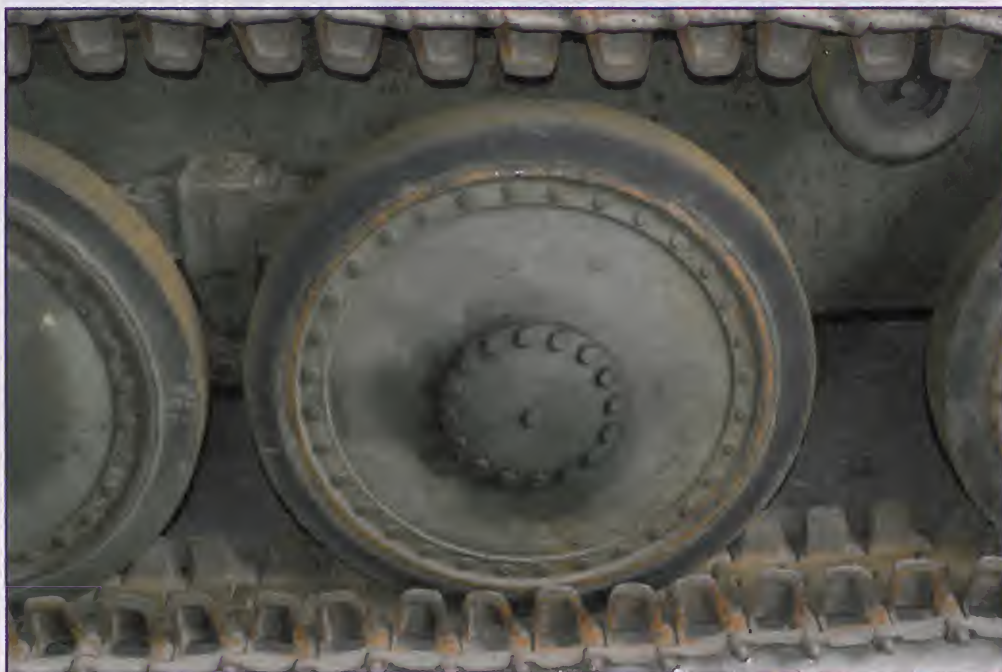
Lastly I would like to apologise to Nicolas Leloup of the Falaise Museum in Normandy for not crediting them correctly for the reference photos of the Panzer IV featured in issue 10.

See you again on July 5th!

Spud
 John 'Spud' Murphy

RANDOM REFERENCE!**Some weathering reference this month;
 Leaking hubs**

Taken at Saumur last year, the road wheel of this Marder III and the idler of the Brumbar offer excellent reference of anyone attempting to add some leaks and staining from the central hubs. A couple of other interesting points to note are the highly polished guide teeth on the Brumbar track and the outer metal rims of the Marder wheels which have rusted, these on an active vehicle would also be highly polished as the inner face of the guide teeth are in constant contact with these rims.





THREE IN A QUARTER

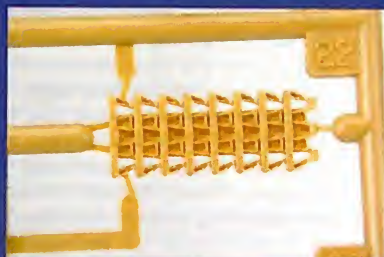
Luke Pitt takes a look at Tamiya's second 1:48 kit this month, the Panzer III N.

The kit has some 220 parts moulded in sand coloured plastic and is presented in a very attractive black bordered box. The box art on this kit is outstanding. The line work and attention to detail is amazing. I'd be tempted to say this is perhaps one of the best armoured illustrations I have ever seen and is a credit to the artist involved. The detail level on all plastic parts is crisp and moulded to a high standard. The lower hull is cast in primed aluminium and has seen quite a bit of use by Tamiya of late; it has been used on all the previous releases of the Panzer III and Stug versions. The cast lower hull has the axles, return roller mounts, idler mountings and suspension bump stops all included in the casting with additional plastic parts for the final drive housings, which trap a polycap inside, and the two shock absorbers for the first and sixth axles.

The detail on the two part drive

sprockets, spoked idler wheels, and road wheels is first rate. The tracks are the 'link-and-length' type with the top track moulded with realistic sag between the return rollers. The track guide teeth are moulded solid and really should have the lightening hole included within the horn. Solid guide horns are OK for a very late N but, as the tracks are on the same sprue as the road wheels and are from all the previous Panzer III and Stug kits, I assume this approach was taken to make the most of the expensive tooling. The upper hull is moulded in one large piece including the fenders and there is a separate superstructure. The engine deck intake covers are separate as is the front inspection hatch. The fenders have dot pattern tread plate with some tools moulded on but the majority are detached. Other details include all the tools and a four-part jack. The two brake cooling intakes on the front plate are also individual parts.

The turret shell is in one piece with a separate lower turret ring. The turret features some nice flush screws on the turret roof and the side hatches are moulded individually. The Commander's cupola is in two parts, an upper and lower section that depicts open vision ports when assembled; there are also separate split hatches. A new sprue is included that contains the side and turret 'Schurzen', their support brackets and the new gun. As with most plastic mouldings of "Schurzen", they are a little on the thick side and would best be replaced with either plastic card or etched brass. Two decal choices are given with the first being for tank number 4 from sPzAbt 501 in Tunisia 1942 in overall desert yellow. The second (with full "Schurzen") is in a sand/green camouflage and is from the 2nd Panzer Division in Russia 1943. Overall this is a fine kit and another welcome addition to the ever-expanding 1:48 scale armour line. ■





Figures

- A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



PLATOON **1:35 SS TANK OFFICER-NORMANDY 1944** **ITEM NO. PT-033**

Sculpted wearing leather jacket and trousers often associated with U-Boat crews. This Platoon figure has been expertly crafted and flawlessly cast in light grey resin. The highlights for me are how well he has been animated and the natural realistic look of the creases in his clothing.

Available from www.historex-agents.com

10/10 - The Editor



PLATOON **1:35 SS UNTERSCHARFUHRER TANK CREW 1944** **ITEM NO. PT-034**

This figure has been designed to complement PT-034. Again this figure has been sculpted wearing the U-boat leathers, but this one is wearing an M1943 field cap. As can be seen fits perfectly in the cupola of a King Tiger, likewise will be perfectly suited to a Panther G or Tiger I. All in all two excellent new figures from Platoon and highly recommended.

Available from www.historex-agents.com

10/10 The Editor

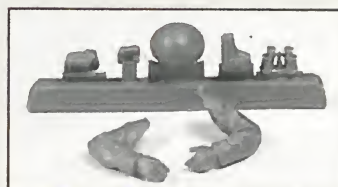


SKP MODELS **1:35 BRITISH SOLDIER** **WWII** **ITEM NO. SKP 010**

Cast in a blue/grey resin, these new figures have been nicely produced, however our example did suffer from some mould slippage and a small casting flaw on his chin. These SKP figures offer outstanding value for money and will be a welcome addition for anyone needing WWII British figures for their latest project.

Available from www.sbxmodelshop.com

8.5/10 The Editor



SKP MODELS **1:35 BRITISH OFFICER** **WWII WITH BINOCULARS** **ITEM NO. SKP 012**

As a rule, we don't tend to mention prices within MMI as they can often vary hugely around the World and amongst suppliers. But on this occasion we feel we need to as these SKP figures are priced at only £2.99, which is incredibly cheap for a resin figure by today's standards.

Available from www.sbxmodelshop.com

8.5/10 The Editor



LENINGRAD DEFENDER

Luciano Rodriguez builds Tamiya's superb KV-1 and offers some excellent painting tips...





It is a good time at present for the many fans of Russian armour, especially with the flurry of T34s and KV-1s and 2s in both 1:35 and 1:48 we have had of late. Thanks to both Tamiya and HobbyBoss we should see a complete range of these vehicles in 1:48.

One of the downsides for me as a modeller is finding a subject which is hasn't already been released as a kit. I like to do unusual or unpopular subjects to get away from the more typical plain green or winter white wash schemes. The idea I had was to do a two-tone camouflaged KV just to make it a little more interesting from a painting point of view. At this time I was shown a very interesting colour illustration of a three-tone camouflaged KV I had never seen before and it gave me the inspiration I needed.

As I only had very limited reference I was a little unsure of the possibilities that KVs would have worn this three tone scheme. In the end I never did find a photo to help me prove this fact (there are many showing two-tone).

The fact is that three tone camouflage is well documented on T-34s and field artillery, so the possibility of KVs wearing a three tone camouflage could be high to me. But I do admit that it will always be open to speculation until some definitive proof comes to light. In fact even the various publications on the subject have assigned these tanks to different units! without certainly knowing

if those three tone KVs belonged to 220th or 224th Tank Brigade. The only thing they all agree on is that these tanks operated on the Leningrad front during 1942. So I at least the only sure thing I knew was I was going to make a brave "Leningrad Defender" based on very limited information.

THE KIT

Tamiya is continuing to increase its 1:48 Military Miniature Vehicle series at a steady pace and once more this model is a totally new tooling and not a down scaling form their 1:35 range. At this point we must remember that the Tamiya 1:35 kit was KV-1 C version, which is quite different in all aspects to this early model.

The 1:35 kit did

suffer from a number of flaws, which thankfully are not present in this new quarter scale version, although as usually happens with Tamiya kits some details are simplified or ignored to get a simple (easy to reproduce) but excellent (easy to assembly) kit. About that, I have to admit I much prefer to have a good, but basic kit (with good styrene, well moulded, perfect fitting, clear instructions and so on) that can be easily improved if necessary, than one with hundreds of over engineered parts, which don't always fit together as well, as one would hope!

ASSEMBLY

I added hardly any extra detailing, therefore assembly progressed quickly without any problems. All the parts fitted perfectly and in total added only two extra parts. One was to make a handle for commander's hatch from fine stretched plastic, and second was a clear lens for the front light, which comes from the spare parts box. Aside from those extra items I decided to drill out the ends of the machine gun barrels. Lastly, Tamiya have included the extra armour plates which are, I presume, for a future version of the KV, although these parts are marked as 'unused' in the instruction sheet, I added both lower and upper front plates following my references. ►



PAINTING



As I wanted a multi colour camouflaged model, I thought it would be better to start applying camouflage, lightest shade first. In order to paint dark yellow over a dark green styrene kit easily, the whole model is primed with Tamiya Earth Brown shade which works as a nice intermediate shade.



With a solid coat of earth brown in place the Tamiya Dark Yellow XF-60 could now be added and as can be seen in this photo no pre-shading was used.



The areas to remain in dark yellow were carefully masked off prior to spraying on a mixture of Vallejo model Air Russian Green and Camouflage Green. Note at this stage the tracks are also primed with Vallejo Model Color Black Brown shade with a brush.



Camouflage brown patches were painted by brush. Vallejo Model Color covers well and dry fast. To do this takes time but is easier than you may think, plus it helps avoid lots of tedious masking. Rubber tyres on return rollers are painted with Model Color Dark Grey and steel. Contact bands on the road wheels were painted with Tamiya enamel Gun Metal.



A pin wash of diluted Tamiya Flat Black enamel was flowed around all raised parts and along recessed panel lines etc. It is important to do it carefully and only apply to these selected areas, otherwise the entire model can end up being darkened unnecessarily. Also at this stage tracks received a wash with Model Color Red Brown.



Small scratches and areas of chipped paint were added using a mix of Model Color Dark Red Brown and Flat Black dark. In parallel the running gear gained a subtle green shade by dry brushing.



Camouflage contrast is toned down a little with Sin Industries Filters. I only used the German camouflage filter on this one and worked well softening the contrast of the camouflage colours. Aside from the entire running gear (wheels and tracks) received a wash of Tamiya earth colour to make it more uniform, and all small details (machine guns, exhaust and front light) are painted in their respective colours at this stage.



Dust was applied by washing the whole model with diluted Tamiya acrylics. Selected areas received more than others to simulate the random and natural way dust settles and is worn from certain surfaces.



Vertical streaks were added using thinned Vallejo Smoke 939. As this colour is translucent it is perfect for this effect.



By rubbing selective edges of the model with a sharpened HB pencil, a realistic metallic sheen can be added to worn and exposed edges of the armour. This effect also works very well for the contact areas of the tracks.





I always like to give a sense of scale to added my models by adding at least one figure. This tank crewman is one of the excellent figures sculpted by Manel Arin, included in the forthcoming Mig Productions "Russian Tank Crew Set". The figure body is finely cast as a single part with separate head. As for paintwork, our "tovarich" was painted entirely using Vallejo Acrylics, strong highlights and shadows helped bring out the superb detail.



The combination of Sin Industries filters and washes of Tamiya acrylics really give the model a dusty used look.



Soot, grime and oil spills have all helped to add interest to the engine deck area.



Scratches, chips and subtle streaking on the turret sides have helped break-up the featureless slab sides.



THE DISPLAY BASE

Many modellers run out of steam once the actual model is finished, whether it be adding figures or putting the model into a scenic setting. I personally don't think the project is complete until it has at least one figure and is on a small base of some kind. The base does not have to be big or complex, but can still help finish the story of the vehicle.

The basic groundwork was made using plaster to which tiny stones and fine sand are fixed with white glue. Once the plaster and sand mix had dried fully, static grass was glued on with CA cement. As

I wanted to add a vertical element to the scene, I chose to add a telegraph pole, which was made from a length of styrene tube textured with putty. Insulators were made with small sections of styrene rod and later fitted on arms made from fine copper wire.

The complete scene was brush painted using Model Color acrylics. Intentionally I used dark shades for the road and sprayed gloss coat on grass in order to get a damp/fresh look. Once the scene was completely painted, last touch was to add fallen telephone wires from the pole made with very thin stretched sprue painted black.

CONCLUSION

I have to admit I do not generally like to make models based on so little information and I tend to not trust colour illustrations in many publications. I prefer to support my work with as much accurate references as possible when. But if not I will not allow the lack of information to ruin the interest I may have for a particular subject. At the end of the day this is a hobby to be enjoyed and if we have had pleasure in producing the finished model and added another to our collection, that's all that matters. ■



Note how effective the metallic edges are, created with the aid of an HB pencil.



Modelspec

1:48 Tamiya KV-1 Russian Heavy Tank, MMV No35.
Kit No.32535

Materials

Injection moulded dark green coloured styrene, waterslide decals, rope cord.

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics: XF-60 Dark Yellow, XF-72 JGSDF Brown
Tamiya Enamels: XF-1 Flat Black, X-10 Gun Metal
Sin Industries: German Filter Set P243
Vallejo Model Air: Light Green 006, Russian Green 017
Vallejo Model Color: Mahogany Brown (846), Flat Black (850), Bright Orange (851), Glossy Black(861), Dark Leather Brown (871), Khaki Grey (880), Smoke (939), Matt Flesh (955), Flat Red (957), Orange Brown (981), Cavalry Brown (982), Flat Earth (983),

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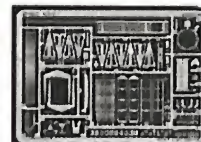


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The inclusion of the figure from Mig Productions really helps add a sense of scale to the bulk of this 'Leningrad Defender'.

Incoming

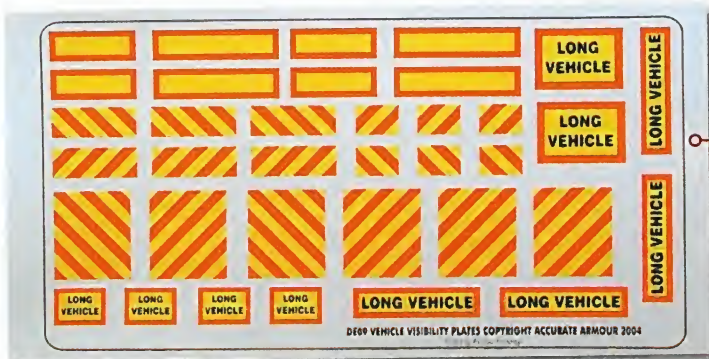


MIG PRODUCTIONS

**1:35 PICK UP HI-LUX
IRAQ-AFGHANISTAN VERSION
U.S. SPECIAL FORCES
ITEM NO. MP 35-145**

Continuing their theme of the ubiquitous 4x4 pick up truck, we now have the one I'm sure will be the most popular of all; the U.S. Special Forces version. The kit obviously contains many part identical to the previous release featuring the Dushka heavy machine gun [previewed in Issue 10, Feb 2007]. The main differences in this version are a set of running boards, five spoke wheels, bull bar and a whole flat bed full of stowage and stack of extra accessories. As we have come to expect from Mig Productions the casting is flawless and the instructions are well produced in colour and are easy to follow. This will certainly test one's armour modelling skills, as it isn't often we get to use high gloss and bright colours on an everyday military vehicle! Available from www.migproductions.com and distributed in the UK by Creative Models (www.creativemodels.co.uk)

10/10 - The Editor



ACCURATE ARMOUR

**DE09 HIGH VISIBILITY PLATES
FLOURESCENT WATERSLIDE DECALS**

This sheet has been out for some time from the guys at Accurate Armour but seemed to arrive without much fanfare. Designed for their impressive range of modern tank transporters, these decals are also ideal for many modern British and NATO vehicles which have to be fitted with these plates during peacetime and when on public highways in Europe. They are panted by Fantasy Printshop, which means the quality of these accurate day-glo decals are second to none and will be a great improvement over the standard orange and yellow decals supplied with all the relevant kits. Available from www.accurate-armour.com

10/10 - The Editor

FINE MOLDS

**1:35 WW.II U.S AFV EQUIPMENT GUARD SET 1 MG-10
1:35 IJA TANK'S VISION PORT SET 1 MG-19 TYPE 97 ETC**

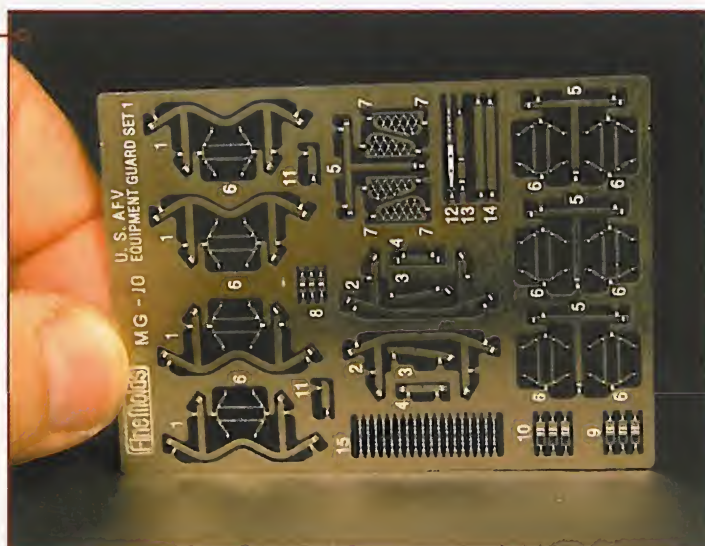
Thanks to Model Wholesale now importing Fine Molds products into the UK, we now have a reliable source, for not only their kits but the impressive range of detail sets they produce as well. The first two we have in for review are these very nice clear vision blocks for tanks of the Imperial Japanese Army such as the Type 97 Chi Ha. Included are 14 vision ports and six headlight lenses moulded in clear styrene. The etched metal equipment set is designed for the M4 Sherman and M8 armoured car. This type of set is ideal



for anyone wanting to improve on the plastic guards supplied in many kits without having need to buy a full detail set. By just changing these guards can really make a big difference and in most cases is all that's needed.

Distributed in the UK by www.modelwholesaleuk.com

9.5/10 - The Editor





MIG PRODUCTIONS

ABTEILUNG 502 OIL PAINTS

Mig Productions are steadily increasing their range of quality oil paints and the latest colours are; Green grass, German Ochre and Basic Earth. The pigment used in these paints is very fine making them perfect for washes, filters, shading and highlights. I personally have been using these Abteilung since we first received them for review and I can recommend them wholeheartedly.

Available from www.migproductions.com distributed in the UK by Creative Models.
10/10 - The Editor



ADLERS NEST

12.7MM .50CAL SHELLS
ITEM NO. AMN 350015

Each of these packs contain 10 tiny little full shells, there are no spent shells here. Scatter them around your next diorama to give that extra little touch of finesse.

Highly recommended.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

10/10 - Graeme Carruthers



ADLERS NEST

1:35 FLAK 38 BARREL ITEM NO. AMN 35001

This is a new company to me and judging by the quality of the initial examples I have then this Japanese manufacturers products will be on peoples 'wants' list. The barrel consists of a turned aluminium main section topped by a brass coloured muzzle brake that has to be the one of most beautiful and delicate pieces out there. The gaps along its length are cut outs and the really tiny little holes along its length are all drilled out for you. This truly is an outstanding piece of engineering and it will be a pity to put paint on it. Superb.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

10/10 - Graeme Carruthers



ADLERS NEST

7.62MM .30 CAL BARREL - BLUE STEEL FINISH
AMN 35004B

While it would be a shame to apply paint to the before mentioned flak barrel you have no worries with this item. The superbly engineered barrel consists of the main tube with the correct notched end, and a perforated sleeve that slides over it. Now the great thing is it is already finished for you in a blue steel colour, all you need to add it to your vehicle at the end of the painting and you are done, simple as that.

Highly recommended.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

10/10 - Graeme Carruthers



ADLERS NEST

MG34 LATE MODEL - BLUE STEEL FINISH
AMN 35005B

Like the .30cal barrel this is a two piece affair consisting of a barrel and a detailed turned sleeve. The sleeve has cut outs and small perforations along its length and will look impressive in your next late war panzer. A reference check should tell you which vehicle to place it in and again no paint is required, it is good to go as is.

Highly recommended.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

10/10 - Graeme Carruthers

New Releases



Legend Productions 1/35th

LF1145: IDF Humvee TOW Conv. (For Tamiya Humvee TOW).....£21.99

LF1144: Sherman Firefly Stowage£14.99

LF1143: IDF Magach 6B Gal/Batash Tracks with Sprockets.....£14.99

Adlers Nest 1/35



35005: MG34 Heavy Barrel Jacket.....£8.99

35004: Browning M2 M1919A4 Barrel£6.49

For more Adlers Nest see our Ebay Shop

Coming Soon:
Fifth Freedom 1/6 Resin Figures!

UK P+P: ≤ £30..£3.00, £31-£75..£4.00
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Visitors to premises by appointment only



Incoming



HASEGAWA

1:48 FOLLOW ME JEEP WILLYS MB ITEM NO. X48-11

A long awaited addition to the smaller scale of vehicles and hardly surprising that it comes from Hasegawa who major in aircraft. The kit comprises 70 crisply moulded and flash free parts with very good detail; grab handles, gearshifts and tools being particularly fine. Included in the total are three figures (pilot, ground crew and driver) and clear parts for the windscreen and headlight lenses. A metal whip aerial is also provided. The instructions are clear and comprehensive and decals are provided for three vehicles (two in olive drab from 8th USAAF 1943 and Korea 1950, and a red and white chequered 'Follow Me' Jeep). Application of the chequered decals could prove a little fiddly as they are provided as a single sheet for the modeller to cut and fit!

A superb little kit that will, I'm sure, appear in many an aircraft diorama filling those blank expanses of runway. The number of finishes applicable to this particular vehicle are many and varied and should make for some colourful additions to aircraft dioramas in particular. Hasegawa are to be applauded for negotiating the copyright minefield and producing this kit.

Unreservedly recommended – buy several of them!!

Available from all good model shops

9.5/10 - Paul Egerton



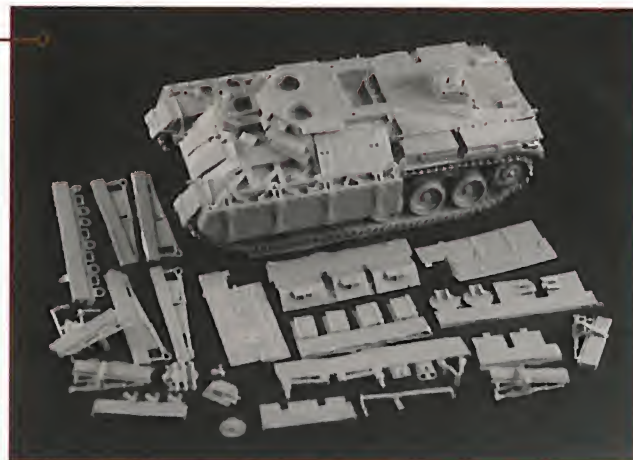
BARREL DEPOT

1:35 REPLACEMENT TURNED ALUMINIUM BARRELS FOR THE ACADEMY M3 LEE

These two sets from the Barrel Depot are designed as direct replacements for the barrels supplied in the Academy M3 Lee. The barrels have been expertly machined and include the correct flared muzzle and even exhibit tiny rifling grooves in the end of the 75mm barrels. If you have an Academy Lee and you want to upgrade the guns after you have corrected the rest of the kit, then these are the way to go.

Available from Lou Stener Armour models, www.armour-models.co.uk

9.5/10 - The Editor



Cromwell Models

COMBAT 72 NACHMACHON

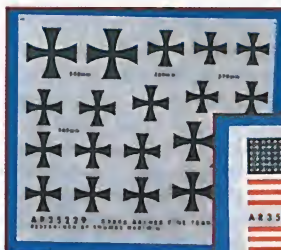
In keeping with most of the new models in the Combat 72 range and especially those of modern or IDF subjects, this kit contains quite a few parts. The main hull comes as one beautiful, flawless single casting with the other pieces consisting of the various hatches, crew guns and smaller fittings. This is welcome addition to the Combat 72 range and it is the only kit of this subject out there and thankfully, it's lovely.

No instructions are given so references are best sought in order make sure you put all the pieces in their correct places.

Very highly recommended.

Available from www.cromwellmodels.com

9/10 - Graeme Carruthers



ARCHER FINE TRANSFERS

DRY RUB DECAL SHEETS

The latest sets in from Archer include the correct style numbers and correct size Stars and Bars for Italeri's awesome PT Boat as well as sets for both the 1:48 and 1:35 Pershing and Deuce and a Half from Tamiya. Lastly, we have Modern German Balkenkreuz in both the pre 1985 and post '85 version.

AR49019 1:48 GENERIC MARKINGS FOR U.S. 2.5 TON 6X6 TRUCK

AR49020 T-26 PERSHING TANK

AR35228 1:35 MODERN GERMAN NATIONAL INSIGNIA 1985 TO PRESENT

AR35229 1:35 MODERN GERMAN NATIONAL INSIGNIA PRE 1985

AR35238 1:35 80' ELCO TORPEDO BOAT (SHEET1)

AR35239 1:35 80' ELCO TORPEDO BOAT (SHEET2)

AR35237 T-26 PERSHING TANK

AR35236 U.S. 2.5 TON 6X6 TRUCK

Available from www.historex-agents.com

10/10 - The Editor



TAMIYA

THE RUSSIAN FIELD CAR GAZ-67B

ITEM NO. 32542

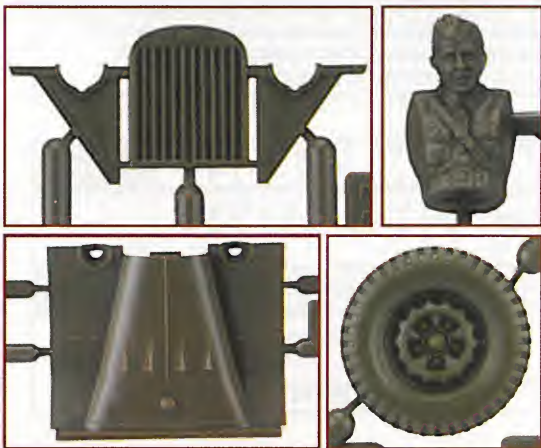
Well here's the latest 1:48 offering from Tamiya. The Russian field car GAZ-67B. The first thing you'll notice is the fantastic box art which captures this vehicle perfectly. Then once you get inside the box you are met with one single sprue which carries the whole of the vehicle. (26 pieces altogether) At first glance Tamiya have done an excellent job with the fine detail and moulding of the parts. But then one starts to notice little things that have been missed off such as the tie-down clasps from the side of the bonnet and the windshield locking handles.

I know that these are minor things but they would of added that little bit more finesse to the finished model. Another down side for me was the solid engine grill. But not all is lost, because Tamiya have also included a clear sprue which carries the windshield and headlights which will make a big difference to the finished model.

There is also a decal sheet which has markings for three different vehicles with one having the white identification band across the bonnet.

Although I've moaned a bit about this kit, it is still top quality and will make a great little thing straight out the box, but with a little scratch building or some after market products added it will really come alive. Available from all good model shops.

9/10 - Glenn Bowen



REVELL

1:72 Sdkfz 165 HUMMEL LATE VERSION ITEM NO. 03167

Following on from Revell's earlier release of the Nashorn is the Sdkfz 165 Hummel, which is basically the same vehicle with a 150mm Howitzer replacing the 88mm main gun. The kit consists of 195 plastic parts which is fairly impressive as the finished vehicle is only about 9cm long. All the parts are crisply moulded and well detailed with no sink marks evident. The tracks which are of the link and length variety are nicely detailed and will please most modellers. The fighting compartment is also well rendered and includes two nicely detailed MP40s in their racks, the 150mm cannon, which consists of 15 parts, is also well detailed. As in most Revell kits two marking options are included, one from the 2nd SS Panzer Division in Normandy finished in red brown over sand yellow and the other is from the 9th SS Panzer Division on the Easter Front finished in red brown and green over sand yellow. Overall a nice little kit. Recommended. Available from all good Revell stockists.

8/10 - Jeff Adams



REVELL

1:72 SLT 50-3 & SAANH.52T ITEM NO. 03145

Revell have really excelled themselves with the production of this current German tank transporter in the smaller armour scale. Over 300 parts go to make up the kit, which, once assembled, is almost a foot long, and, whilst not in the Trumpeter mega league, is still an impressive model.

The mouldings are cleanly produced, flash free and exhibit a high level of detail for this scale. One problem with the review sample was the trailer bed; the original had sink marks matching the underside framework but a much-improved spare was included. I assume that this problem will have been overcome before the main run of kits hits the shops. Another minor niggle I have is with the windscreen and side windows which have to be cut from acetate sheet (provided). I wonder why clear injected plastic was not used - keeping costs down perhaps?

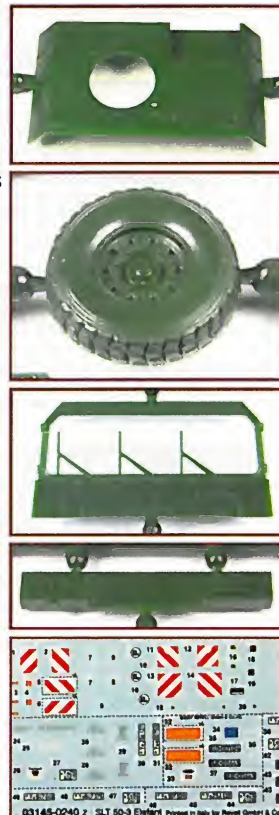
Instructions run to 16 A4 pages and are very clear and comprehensive. Decals are provided for four vehicles, two from Exercise NATO Collective Effort 2004, one from Kosovo and one from the German Army Technical School and, as we have come to expect from Revell, they are very good indeed. The whole lot is attractively packaged with eye-catching artwork but I wish that Revell would abandon their end opening boxes for the more user-friendly lid and tray type (another cost savings measure?)

VWP's publication 'Bundeswehr Tank Transporters in Detail' and Tankograd's 'Tank Transporters of the Modern German Army 1952 - to the Present' will prove invaluable when tackling this project and are highly recommended.

This is an outstanding kit with enormous diorama potential as the loads carried are many and various. Full marks to Revell particularly as it is sold at a very reasonable price by today's standards.

Available from all good model shops.

8/10 - Paul Egerton

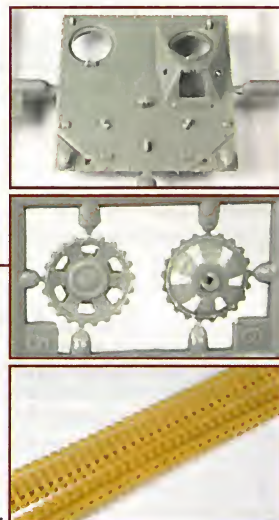


DRAGON

1:72 Sdkfz 164 HORNISSE - ITEM NO. 7234

One of the earlier releases from Dragon was the Sdkfz 164 Hornisse, which mounts a Pak 43 L71 88mm Anti-Tank gun on a Panzer IV chassis. The kit comprises 197 plastic parts, an etched brass fret of 17 parts and a set of DS100 tracks. This is a very impressive number of parts for such a small vehicle. This is an extremely well detailed kit and all the parts are crisply moulded, highlights include, both drivers hatches can be depicted open nicely detailed MP40s in their racks, ammo racks complete with 88mm rounds and you also get 3 separate 88mm rounds which is a bonus. The main gun is truly a work of art consisting of no fewer than 32 parts, although care will need to be taken when assembling. The Etched brass parts are for the ammo locker doors and the side cooling louvres, again care will be needed, especially with the louvres. No fewer than 6 marking options are included four from Sh.Pz.Jg.Abt 525 and two from Sh.Pz.Jg.Abt 560 in a variety of schemes, my particular favourite is the one depicted on the box art fished in sand yellow and red brown over green. Highly recommended. Available from all good model shops.

9/10 - Jeff Adams





Contact Details - for companies featured in MMI...

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Units 15-16 Kingston Industrial Estate,
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SYLMASTA

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Tel: 01444 415027
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TAMIYA JAPAN

Tamiya, Inc., 3-7 Ondawara Suruga-ku,
Shizuoka 422-8610 JAPAN
www.tamiya.com

TAMIYA UK;

THE HOBBY COMPANY LIMITED
Garforth Place, Knowhill,
Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG, UK
Tel: 01908 605666
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Group Editor; Marcus Nicholls
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Graphic Design; Alex Hall
Adam Harry
Advertising Manager; Colin Spinner
Advertising Sales; Mark Peacock
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Office Manager; Paula Gray
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MMI Website; Alex Hall

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Editorial enquiries;
Tel; +44 (0)1525 245794
Email; editor@modelmilitary.com

Advertising enquiries;
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573
Email; colin@adhpublishing.com

Subscription enquiries;
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573
Fax; +44 (0)1525 222574
Email; enquiries@adhpublishing.com

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STANDING DEFIANT

After a technical glitch we finally bring you
Mike Tooth's stunning 1:48 diorama.



LAV-25

The Editor has been busy finishing the Trumpeter LAV-25, complete with resin wheels, etched brass and a ton of stowage...

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!



FIRST OF THE INFAMOUS

Andrew Dextras details
Dragon's 1:35 Initial Tiger I.

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!



The Last Post...

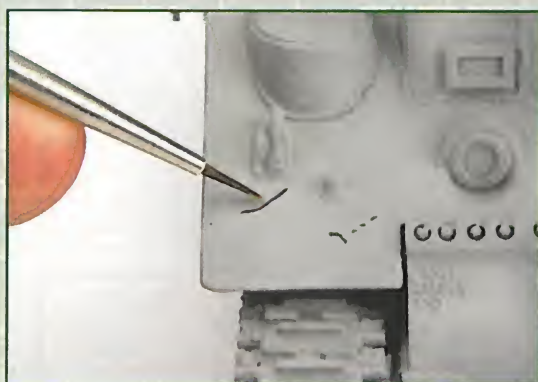
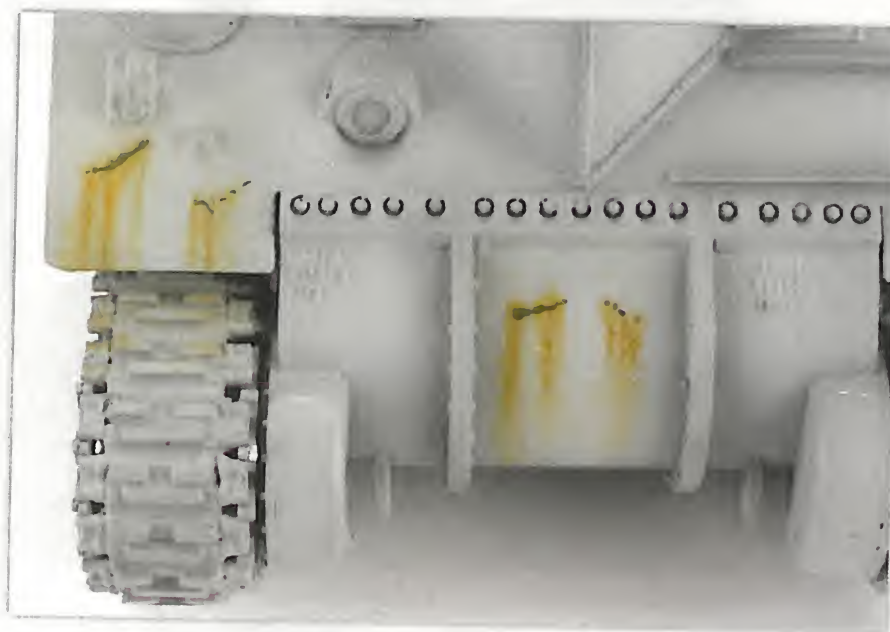
Techniques

RUST STREAKS AND STAINS

For the first in our new look 'Last Post' which will feature tips and techniques, the Editor describes a quick and simple way to replicate rust streaks and stains.



Abteilung 502 oil paints were chosen because of their ultra fine pigments and excellent range of colours.



First off, scratches need to be applied. For speed I chose to use a Vallejo Model Color acrylic for this, as the oil paint or white spirit will have no effect on this paint medium. The choice of scratch colour will be dependent on the age of the damage. Dark brown has been used here for clarity.



The next step is to paint vertical streaks down from the scratches. For the initial streaks it is best to use the lightest rust colour, in this case German Ochre. In this case the lowest section and ends.



The streaks are now blended in using a flat brush. If too much is removed it is simply a case of re-applying more of the ochre and repeating the process.



Here we can see the ochre has been blended fully. The idea being this should take on the form of a subtle stain rather than a prominent streak.



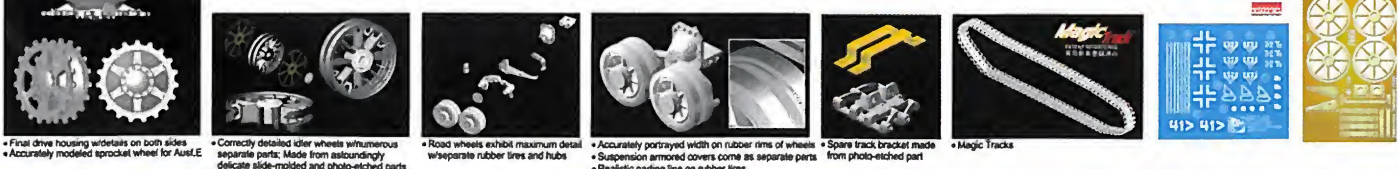
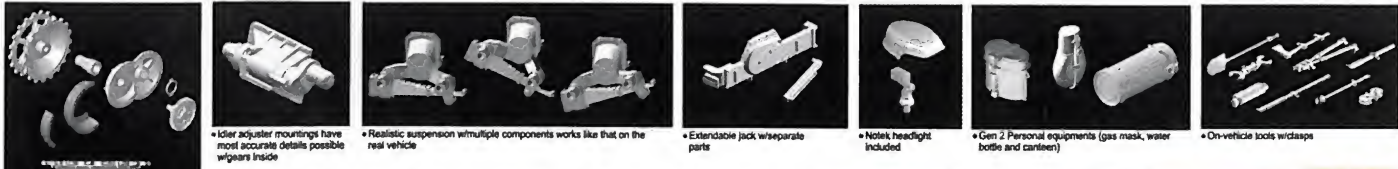
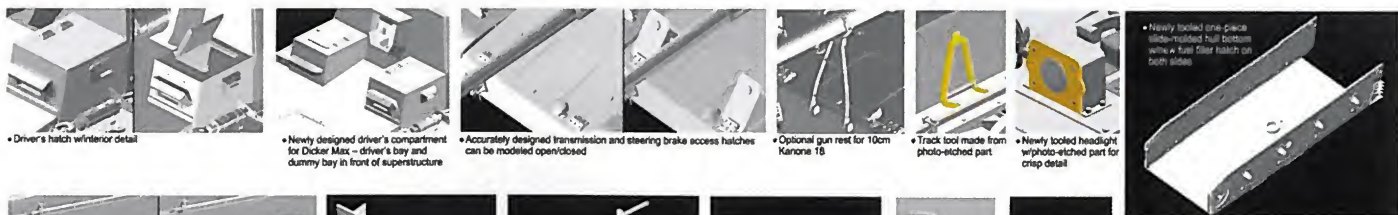
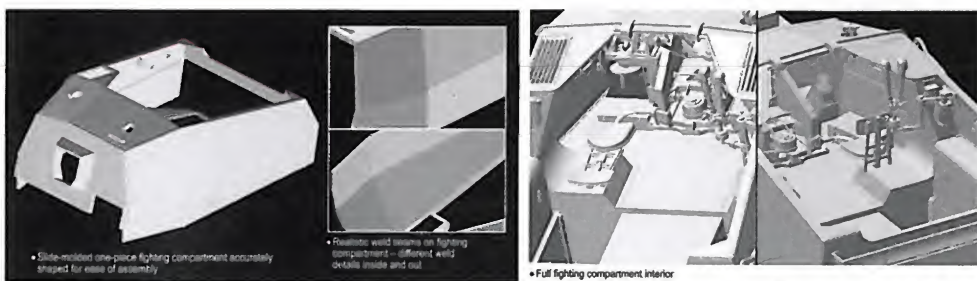
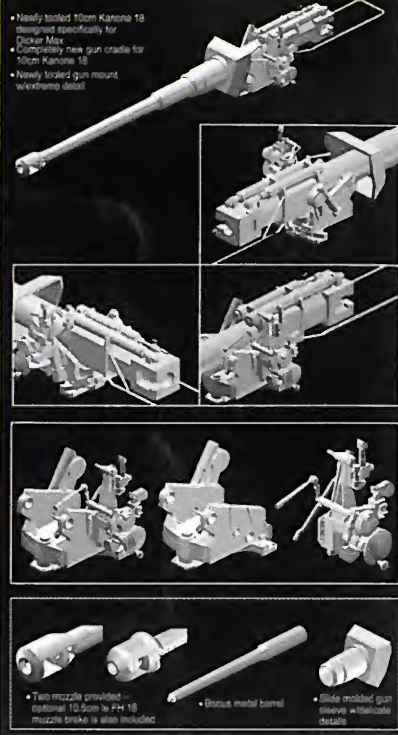
The last step is to apply the darkest colour, in this case Dark Rust from selected points of the scratch, making sure they are in the centre of the ochre areas. Lastly a final light blending will complete the effect.

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**1/48
MM**
MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES



CRUSADER Mk.I/II BRITISH CRUISER TANK Mk.VI

Item 32541

NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINES

1/48 BRITISH CRUSADER TANK & RUSSIAN FIELD CAR GAZ-67B

Simple to assemble, palm-sized 1/48 MM Series models feature amazing detail that compares favorably against larger scale kits. New for 2007 is the British Crusader tank, a 1/48 scale original that is currently unavailable in Tamiya's 1/35 series. The intricately detailed model realistically depicts rivets and overlapping sloped armor plates, while choice of two types of turret front panel allow replication of either Mk.I or Mk.II variant. Like all the tanks in the 1/48 MM series, the Crusader features diecast lower hull for added weight and realism, and assembly type tank treads with straight upper section. Line the Crusader up against early-period German tanks, like the Panzer III, to reproduce fierce battles in North Africa during Operation Battleaxe. The latest offering in the light vehicle class is the Russian GAZ-67B Field Car, which exhibits fully accurate reproduction of the distinctive front grille and other chassis details. The kit includes driver figure and 3 sets of markings. With its long service history in the former Warsaw Pact countries, the GAZ-67B can be used in an almost endless variety of dioramas, displayed either with other armored vehicles or alongside 1/48 scale airplanes.



Russian Field Car GAZ-67B (32542)



REINFORCEMENTS FOR YOUR PANZERCORPS

The 1/48MM Series shows no sign of slowing as it enters its 3rd year with these highly anticipated new releases. The Panzer III Ausf.N (32543) (at left) features Schürzen armor skirts, while the distinctively shaped Flakpanzer IV Wirbelwind (32544) (at right) further expands our German armor selection.



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